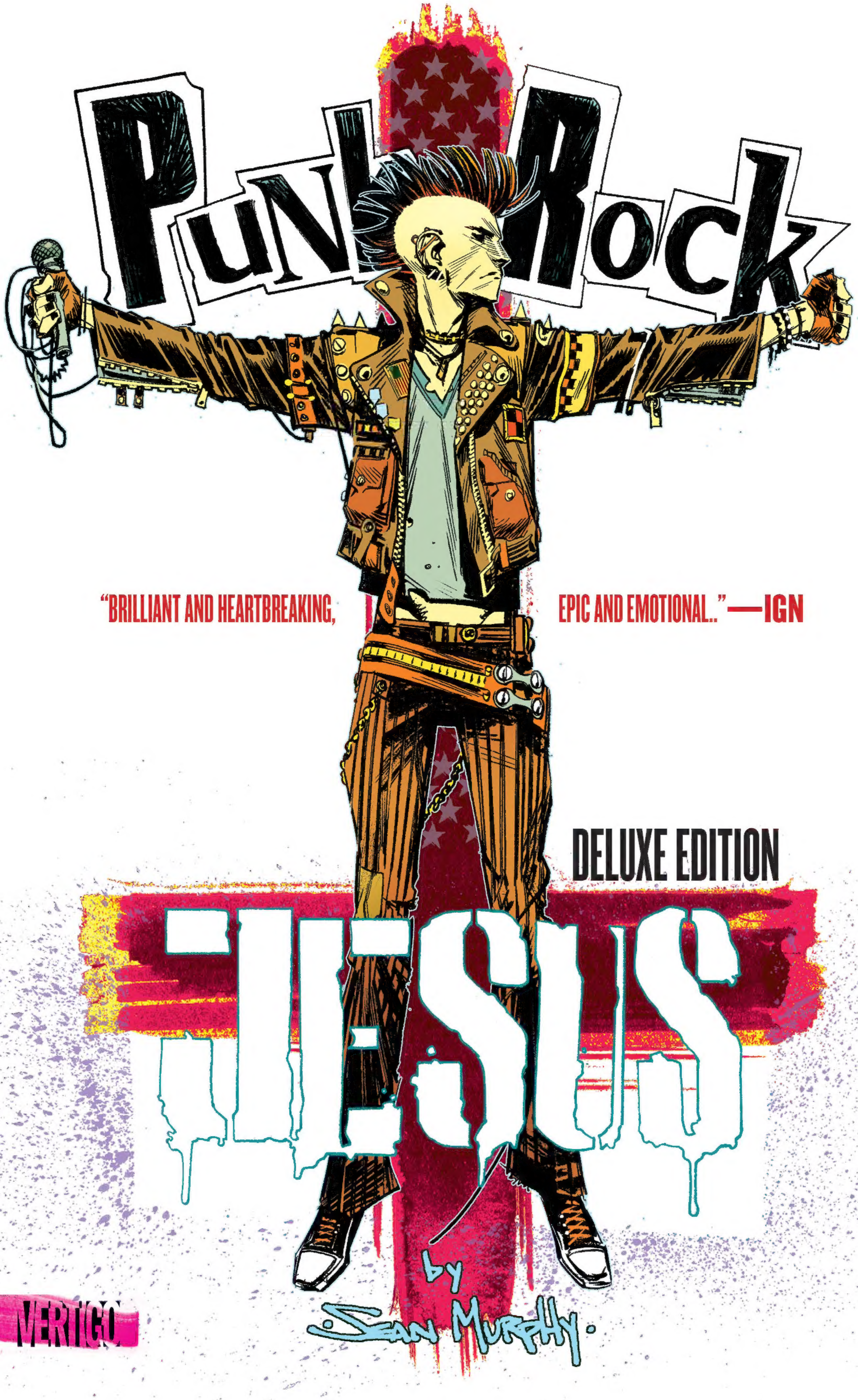

"BRILLIANT AND HEARTBREAKING, EPIC AND EMOTIONAL.." —IGN

DELUXE EDITION

JESUS

BY

SEAN MURPHY

VERTIGO

PUNK ROCK JESUS PUNK ROCK JESUS PUNK ROCK JESUS PUNK ROCK JESUS PUNK ROCK JESUS PUNK ROCK JESUS
DELUXE EDITION

PUNK ROCK JESUS DELUXE EDITION

SEAN MURPHY STORY AND ART

TODD KLEIN LETTERER PUNK ROCK JESUS CREATED BY SEAN MURPHY

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THANK YOU FER BLESSING US, LORD, AND THE FOOD WE'RE ABOUT TO EAT.

THANKS BE TO GOD FER OUR HEALTH, OUR LOVE FER ONE ANOTHER...

...AND THANK YEH ALWAYS FER WATCHING OVER US...

...AND PLEASE GUIDE OUR FAMILY THROUGH THE DIFFICULTY AHEAD.

IN YER NAME WE PRAY...

GET AWAY FROM THE WINDOW!

BRRAAAAA!!!!

THOMAS, COME WITH ME. JUST LIKE WE PRACTICED.

GET INSIDE THE CLOSET, THOMAS. QUICKLY, NOW.

TAKE THIS AND SHOOT ANYONE WHO TRIES TO GET INSIDE.

NO MATTER WHAT--***DO NOT*** OPEN THIS DOOR UNLESS YEH HEAR ME OR YER MOTHER'S VOICE FIRST.

YEH HAVE TWO SHOTS. GOD BE WITH YEH.

I LOVE YEH, THOMAS. TRY TO BE BRAVE.

BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!

KA-BOOM!
BOOM!
BLAM!

BRRRAAAKKK!

CREAK.

CREAK

ka-Click

BOOM!

T-T-THOM...
GGG-GGG...

BOOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!

THOMAS. ARE YEH OKAY?

YER MA'S-- GONE. YER DA'S SHOT TO THE THROAT. AND THE CHEST.

...

YERS? DID YEH SHOOT HIM, THOMAS?

SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO FUCKING CARELESS.

...

THEY MIGHT HAVE LIVED IF IT WASN'T FOR YEH.

CAN YEH STILL HEAR ME, BROTHER? I'LL LOOK AFTER YER BOY. I'LL SHOW HIM HIS BIRTHRIGHT.

AND I SWEAR TO GOD THAT HE'LL HAVE HIS REVENGE. GOD BE WITH YEH, BROTHER.

BOOM!

HE'S IN A BETTER PLACE NOW.

QUICKLY-- THE POLICE WILL BE HERE SOON. OUT THE BACK.

THIS BIKE MEANT A LOT TO YER DA. YER GRANDAD BOUGHT IT IN 1946 AFTER THE WAR.

LIKELY THE ONLY ONE LEFT IN IRELAND. HE WANTED YEH TO HAVE IT THE DAY HE LEFT THIS EARTH.

THAT DAY IS TODAY.

THERE'S A LAD.

I KNOW IT WAS AN ***ACCIDENT,*** THOMAS. BUT IT COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED. NEXT TIME YOU'LL BE MORE PREPARED.

YER DA WANTED A BETTER LIFE FOR YEH. AND ONE DAY, IF YOU'RE COMMITTED, AND GOD WILLING...

VROOM!

...THE STREETS OF BELFAST WILL RUN RED WITH THE BLOOD OF THE FUCKERS WHO DID THIS.

GET READY FOR THE
SECOND COMING
CHRISTMAS 2019
T2
BOB'S Pawn Shop
OPEN 24 HOURS
WE BUY GUNS
VROOOOM

LIVE

AND JUST WHEN I THOUGHT TELEVISION PROGRAMMING COULDN'T GET ANY WORSE-- THIS AFTERNOON ***OPHIS*** ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR ITS NEXT ***REALITY*** SHOW, THIS ONE STARRING THE FIRST HUMAN CLONE IN HISTORY: ***JESUS CHRIST!***

YOU HEARD ME CORRECTLY, FOLKS. THE ***J2 PROJECT*** IS SET TO BEGIN BROADCASTING THIS CHRISTMAS.

MARCH 25 2019 — the Boiler Room with DON BAKER — 8:46a PT

OPHIS HAS MADE A ***CONFIDENTIAL*** DEAL WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH FOR USE OF THE SHROUD OF TURIN. THEY HAVE ENLISTED ***DR. SARAH EPSTEIN,*** THE WORLD-FAMOUS GENETICIST AND ENVIRONMENTALIST, IN THEIR SERVICE.

DR. EPSTEIN ***FIRST*** MADE HEADLINES IN 2013 WHEN SHE BEGAN CLONING POLAR BEARS IN AN ATTEMPT TO DELAY THEIR EXTINCTION. IN 2016, SHE WON THE ***NOBEL PRIZE*** FOR HER ***HYPER PLANT*** THAT FED OFF CO_2 AT ACCELERATED RATES.

BUT HER PLAN TO POLLINATE THE BRAZILIAN RAINFOREST ***FAILED*** WHEN SIX FAST-FOOD CHAINS FILED LAWSUITS.

DR. EPSTEIN, WELCOME.

IT'S BEEN TWENTY-FOUR YEARS SINCE DOLLY THE SHEEP WAS CREATED, SO WHY HAS IT TAKEN SO ***LONG*** TO CLONE A HUMAN? ARE WE ***HARDER*** TO CLONE?

NO, THERE'S NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT HUMANS ON A ***GENETIC*** LEVEL. AN EAR OF CORN HAS LONGER DNA CHAINS.

THE DELAYS ARE DUE TO THE ***CONTRO-VERSY*** AND THE ***LEGALITIES.*** ***OPHIS***'S LAWYERS FOUND A LEGAL LOOPHOLE BY CLONING IN INTER-NATIONAL WATERS.

THE OTHER CHALLENGE WAS TO REVIVE DNA THAT'S BEEN ***"DEAD"*** FOR SO LONG. THROUGH MY RESEARCH, I'VE DEVELOPED NEW TECHNIQUES TO HELP ***COUNTER*** THE DETERIORATION OF THE 2,000-YEAR-OLD CHRIST DNA.

ISN'T ***OPHIS*** AFRAID OF THE ***REACTION*** FROM THE CHRISTIAN RIGHT? DON'T YOU FEEL ANY ***MORAL CONFLICT*** ABOUT CREATING A HUMAN LIFE, LET ALONE ONE WHO COULD BE THE SON OF GOD, FOR THE ***PURPOSE*** OF ENTERTAINMENT?

SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE THIS WAS CHRIST'S SHROUD. SOME PEOPLE DON'T. MY ROLE HERE IS ***PURELY*** SCIENTIFIC.

OPHIS'S FUNDING WILL HELP ME ENGINEER NEW TYPES OF CO_2-DIGESTING ALGAE--THE BEST SOLUTION TO GLOBAL WARMING. MY MAIN GOAL IS TO ***PROTECT*** THE ENVIRONMENT, AND ***ULTIMATELY*** HUMANITY.

"AND IF I HAVE TO ***RESURRECT*** JESUS CHRIST TO DO IT, THEN I WILL."

"AND WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO FIND A GIRL TO CARRY THE EGG?"

"***OPHIS*** IS HOLDING OPEN AUDITIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY FOR A TEENAGE VIRGIN FEMALE."

STARTING THIS XMAS...

AUDITIONS

JESUS SAVES

HATES FAGS

CHRIST LORD

"A ***VIRGIN?*** YOU'RE ***KIDDING*** ME. THEY'RE TAKING IT THAT FAR?"

J2 AUDITIONS TODAY

"THAT'S THE WAY ***OPHIS*** WANTS IT.

"WE'LL INJECT THE ***DNA*** INTO AN UNFERTILIZED EGG AND THEN IMPLANT IT IN HER UTERUS."

I ALMOST FEEL BAD FOR THIS GIRL.

BUT, THEN AGAIN, I HEAR SHE GETS TO LIVE AT THE ***LUXE J2*** COMPOUND. HOW BAD CAN THAT BE?

the Boiler Room

I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT YOUR FANCY UNIFORMS. I AIN'T ***WEARING*** THAT SHIT!

YOU DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, TIM. ***OPHIS*** WANTS A ***UNIFIED*** LOOK FOR THE CREW--WE DON'T WANT YOU STANDING OUT.

YOU WERE HIRED TO NETWORK HUNDREDS OF COMPUTER SYSTEMS ON A ***MULTIBILLION***-DOLLAR PROJECT, ***NOT*** TO FILL OUR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY QUOTA.

IS THAT A ***BLACK JOKE?***

FUCK OFF, SLATE.

I THINK THE UNIFORMS LOOK NICE.

THANK YOU, GWEN. THAT'S PARTIALLY WHY WE PICKED YOU--

--FOR YOUR VERY REASONABLE PERSONALITY.

SO WHY DID I HAVE TO GO THROUGH ***AUDITIONS*** IF YOU ALREADY ***KNEW*** THAT YOU WERE SELECTING ME?

BECAUSE THEY'RE ***MANIPULATIVE ENTERTAINMENT*** OVERLORDS!

MOST AMERICANS SEE JESUS AS A MAN OF THE PEOPLE. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT VIEWERS ***FEEL*** LIKE WE SELECTED ONE OF THEIR OWN.

IT'S SHOW BUSINESS. ***OPHIS*** WILL ONLY ANSWER TO RATINGS.

SO THEY CAN DO WHATEVER THEY WANT?

"NO. ***J2*** WAS ***MY*** IDEA.

"I'VE ***PERSONALLY*** SECURED EVERYTHING FROM THE LAND DEVELOPMENT TO THE FOUR-PLY TOILET PAPER. AND I DIDN'T GO TO A TOP LAW SCHOOL TO ALLOW THESE ***OPHIS JERK-OFFS*** TO WALK ALL OVER ME."

MY JOB IS TO STAND ***BETWEEN YOU*** AND THE MANIPULATIVE OVERLORDS AT ***OPHIS.***

THANK YOU, TIM. FLYING USUALLY MAKES ME SICK.

SEE WHAT I'M DOING HERE, SLATE? I'M HELPING THE LADY! WHY? BECAUSE I'M A ***GENTLEMAN.*** YOU SHOULD TRY IT.

MAY I INTRODUCE SARAH EPSTEIN, WORLD-FAMOUS GENETICIST AND RESIDENT ***J2*** PHYSICIAN.

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE A ***WOMAN*** DOCTOR.

YEAH, IT'S A DELICATE PROCEDURE-- YOU WOULDN'T WANT A CLUMSY MALE POKING AROUND DOWN THERE.

HEARD THAT.

ELEVATOR

WOW! THIS PLACE IS AWESOME!

THE BOAT IS ***WAITING,*** SIR. WE SHOULD LEAVE WHILE THE TIDE IS IN.

WHERE THE HELL IS THOMAS?

THE SECURITY CHIEF MADE SOME LAST-MINUTE ***IMPROVEMENTS*** THAT SLOWED CONSTRUCTION. SAID HE WAS RUNNING LATE.

PROBABLY ***BLOCKED*** BY THOSE FUCKING PROTESTORS.

"WHO **KNOWS** WHAT KIND OF PSYCHOS ARE OUT THERE."

WE'RE THE **NEW AMERICAN CHRISTIANS,** AND WE DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE SHUTDOWN OF THIS FALSE SHRINE!

YEAH!

THAT'S RIGHT!

GOD BLESS THE **NAC!**

JESUS is LORD

STOP SCIENCE NOW

VROOM

YOU DON'T SCARE US! WE'VE GOT THE **REAL** JESUS ON OUR SIDE! YOU'VE GOT A FAKE.

DON'T BE AFRAID, FRIENDS!

THIS IS A PEACEFUL PROTEST, THERE'S NOTHING **THEY** CAN DO TO HARM US!

WHACK!

TAKE

WHUD

KRACK

MY NAME IS ***DAISY MILTON*** OF THE NEW AMERICAN CHRISTIANS! ***J2*** IS AN ***ABOMINATION UNTO GOD,*** AND WE WON'T REST UNTIL...

YOU HAVE ONE MINUTE TO LEAVE BEFORE THIS GUN STARTS GOING OFF.

...GLIRK.

NO! WE'RE NOT GIVING UP SO EASILY! WE WILL ***NOT*** LET THE FORCES OF EVIL WIN!

DAMN YOUR LACK OF FAITH!

AND MAY I INTRODUCE *THOMAS McKAEL*...

VROOOM

...SECURITY CHIEF OF *J2*.

WHERE WERE YOU, MR. McKAEL?

PICKING UP MORE EQUIPMENT FOR THE SECURITY STAFF.

UH...HI. NICE TO MEET--

STAY BEHIND ME AS WE APPROACH THE BOAT. THE BULLETPROOF GLASS ON THE DOCKS ISN'T IN PLACE YET, AND I DON'T WANT SOME TERRORIST SNIPER IN A CANOE GETTING LUCKY.

SOMETHING WRONG, DOCTOR?

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK OF GWEN, DOCTOR?

SWEET GIRL. I HATE TO SEE HER GET ***RAILROADED*** BY YOU PEOPLE.

J2 IS THE ***BEST*** THING TO EVER HAPPEN TO HER. GWEN IS A MULTI-MILLIONAIRE BECAUSE OF US. NOW HER FAMILY CAN PAY OFF THEIR BILLS AND GET OUT OF DEBT. NOW GWEN'S SISTERS CAN GO TO COLLEGE.

J2

YOU'RE ***ALL*** USING HER.

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

ALMOST READY.

IS THIS GOING TO HURT?

NO. I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO SLEEP SO YOU WON'T FEEL A THING. DON'T WORRY, IT WON'T AFFECT THE BABY.

WE'RE SEVEN MILES OUT NOW. INTERNATIONAL WATERS.

WE'RE READY TO BEGIN.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M GETTING ***KNOCKED UP*** ON A BOAT WITH YOU PEOPLE WATCHING. THIS IS ***SO*** NOT SEXY.

DON'T FIGHT THE MEDICATION, GWEN. FOCUS ON SOMETHING ELSE.

HERE, WANT TO SEE A ***PICTURE*** OF THE BABY? THIS SOFTWARE CAN FORMULATE A MODEL OF WHAT THE BABY WILL LOOK LIKE. THAT'S 98% ACCURATE--AND THIS IS HIM WHEN HE'S BORN.

WHAT BEAUTIFUL...BROWN... EYES...BABY...

THIS IS ***AMAZING,*** DOCTOR. CAN YOU MAKE HIM OLDER?

SURE, BUT THE OLDER YOU MAKE HIM, THE LESS ***ACCURATE*** THE PROGRAM WILL BE.

THIS IS HIM AT ONE YEAR.

THIS IS HIM AT TWO.

AND HERE HE IS AS A TEENAGER.

I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THE ***BROWN*** EYES, DOCTOR. CAN WE MAKE THEM BLUE?

I DIDN'T DEVELOP THIS TECHNOLOGY TO CREATE DESIGNER BABIES.

I KNOW, BUT ***OPHIS*** IS GOING TO WANT THE CLONE TO MATCH SOMETHING OUT OF A ***CHILDREN'S BIBLE:*** LIGHT SKIN AND BLUE EYES.

BUT JESUS CHRIST WAS ***MIDDLE EASTERN--*** WITHOUT THAT GENETIC TRAIT!

COME ON, YOU'VE ALREADY ADJUSTED THE DNA SO THE CLONE WON'T HAVE THINGS LIKE DOWN AND TURNER SYNDROME, RIGHT? IS IT REALLY A BIG DEAL TO MAKE HIS EYES BLUE?

DISEASES ARE ONE THING. MAKING HIM LOOK LIKE A MEMBER OF A ***BOY BAND*** IS ANOTHER! THE ***ONLY*** WAY TO CHANGE IT NOW IS TO ADD SEQUENCES AND ADJUST THROUGH MUTATIONS. WE COULD PERMANENTLY ***DAMAGE*** HIM.

OPHIS OWNS YOUR RESEARCH AND YOUR ENTIRE LAB, DOCTOR.

I'M ASKING YOU-- PLEASE...

EXECUTE PROCEDURE?

...CHANGE THE ***FUCKING*** EYES.

EXECUT
PROCEDURE

EXECUTING
PLEASE WAIT...

Fairling, Gwen DAY 105

NEW SEARCH...

Thomas McKael

October 19, 2007

3 POLICE, 1 CHILD KILLED IN CARBOMB

Thomas McKael
ARRESTED ON SITE

THE TIM

IRA SUSPECT DETAIN

McKAEL
MISSING
SINCE 1987

June 4, 2009

The Belfast Telegra

LOCAL IRA OPERATIVE DETA

IRA MAN GOES SUPERGRASS

TESTIFIES AGAINST HIS OWN BRIGADE
IN EXCHANGE FOR SHORTENED SENTENCE

4 ARRESTED DURING PROTESTANT PROTEST

November 6, 1987

BOY GOES MISSING AFTER PARENTS FOUND SLAIN

SUSPECTED IRA INVOLVEMENT

THOMAS MCKAEL, AGE 7

mrph...

THINK I SHOULD?

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, MR. McKAEL.

WHO AM I THEN?

YOU'RE A TERRORIST WITH THE IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY.

IT WAS AROUND FIFTEEN YEARS AGO--I WAS IN BELFAST DOING RESEARCH ON GLOBAL WARMING.

YOUR FACE WAS IN ALL THE PAPERS. THEY ARRESTED YOU FOR A CAR BOMBING THAT KILLED ***THREE POLICEMEN*** AND A ***LITTLE GIRL*** IN A PINK JACKET.

I NEVER ***FORGOT*** IT BECAUSE, AT THE TIME, MY HUSBAND AND I HAD JUST LOST OUR BABY DURING MY LAST TRIMESTER.

WE'D ALREADY PAINTED THE NURSERY PINK.

DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE MARRIED.

HE DIVORCED ME WHEN WE FOUND OUT I COULDN'T CARRY A BABY TO TERM.

WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?

I WANT YOU TO LEAVE J2 BEFORE I REPORT YOU TO SLATE.

TELL HIM RIGHT NOW.

TELL ME WHAT?

P1

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO THIS MAN IS? HE'S AN ***IRA*** TERRORIST RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF ***WHO KNOWS*** HOW MANY PEOPLE!

EX IRA, DOCTOR-- HIS PREVIOUS LIFE.

THIS MAN KILLED SMALL CHILDREN.

AND HE'S DONE PRISON TIME TO MAKE UP FOR IT.

HOW CAN YOU MAKE UP FOR MURDERING A CHILD?

BY HELPING BRITAIN PROSECUTE DOZENS OF TERRORISTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

THOMAS SPENT YEARS WITH THE ***SRR*** AFTERWARDS--BRITAIN'S COUNTER-TERRORISM GROUP--TO ATONE FOR HIS CRIMES. HE'S A HIGHLY QUALIFIED MILITARY EXPERT, AND HIS PREVIOUS LIFE WITH THE ***IRA*** GIVES HIM INSIGHT INTO SOME THREATS WE MIGHT BE FACING.

HOW IS HAVING AN EX-TERRORIST ON STAFF AN ADVANTAGE?

OPHIS HAS RECEIVED ***HUNDREDS*** OF BOMB THREATS. AND ***NOT*** JUST FROM LOCAL ZEALOTS LIKE DAISY MILTON AND THE ***NAC***-- IT'S GOTTEN INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION FROM A DOZEN TERRORIST FACTIONS ACROSS THE ARAB WORLD.

I TRAINED WITH ARAB FACTIONS IN THE LIBYAN DESERTS DURING MY TIME IN THE IRA. BELIEVE ME, ***J2*** IS AT THE ***TOP*** OF THEIR HIT LISTS, AND ***EACH*** PERSON INVOLVED IS A TARGET.

BULLSHIT.

AT THIS VERY MOMENT, YOUR PHOTO IS PROBABLY STUCK TO A WALL IN SOME AFGHAN CAVE.

WHAT ABOUT THAT CROSS, SLATE? THIS MAN'S A CATHOLIC!

AND YOU'RE A JEW. SO WHAT?

I BELIEVE IN SCIENCE. HIS RELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS MAKE HIM A RISK!

FEELING GUILTY FOR ***MURDER,*** ARE WE? YOU THINK PROTECTING JESUS #2 WILL FORGIVE YOU YOUR SINS?

CLIK.

THAT'S ENOUGH, DOCTOR. YOU DON'T HAVE TO ***LIKE*** THOMAS, BUT THERE MIGHT BE A TIME WHEN YOU'LL BE GLAD HE'S ON ***J2.*** WHATEVER HIS ***RELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS*** MIGHT BE.

IF HE'S NOT FIRED, THEN I'LL QUIT.

THEN QUIT.

WE ***OWN*** YOUR RESEARCH, THE LAB, AND THE COPYRIGHTS TO YOUR CLONING PROCEDURES. YOU'LL LOSE ***TEN YEARS*** REBUILDING IT. BY THEN IT'LL BE TOO LATE TO SAVE THE PLANET WITH YOUR "MAGIC ALGAE."

YOU EVEN GONNA ***BOTHER*** TO GET TO KNOW GWEN? SHE DOESN'T HAVE A LOT OF ***FRIENDS*** HERE, YOU KNOW.

I WASN'T ***HIRED*** TO BE HER FRIEND. OR YERS.

JESUS, DUDE--YOU NEED TO ***LIGHTEN*** UP. YOU SOUND LIKE ROBOCOP.

HERE. BROUGHT YOU SOME COFFEE. I ALSO MADE YOU A MUG.

A 1939 INDIAN SCOUT. LIKE THE ONE YOU'RE WORKING ON IN THE GARAGE.

...

IT'S A GIFT, THOMAS. I WANTED THIS CONVERSATION TO START ON A ***POSITIVE*** NOTE.

BECAUSE WHAT I'M GOING TO SAY NEXT IS A LITTLE MORE DIFFICULT. I'M NOT ***AFRAID*** OF YOU, MAN.

SLATE ASSIGNED ME TO BE YOUR ***TECHNICAL ASSISTANT,*** SO THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO DO. YOU KEEP ACTING LIKE A FUCKING TERMINATOR, HANGING IN THE BATCAVE WHILE ***REFUSING*** TO MAKE FRIENDS, THAT'S FINE.

YOU CAN BE AN ASSHOLE TO EVERYONE ELSE. BUT NOT ***ME.***

FROM NOW ON WE'RE A ***TEAM,*** SO START TALKING TO ME.

YOU CAN START BY ***THANKING*** ME FOR THE FUCKING MUG.

AND THEN START ***THINKING*** ABOUT GWEN.

DON BAKER HERE FROM THE ***BOILER ROOM.*** TONIGHT OUR GUESTS DISCUSS THE CONTINUING CONTROVERSY OF ***J2***--THE NEW MESSIAH, AND ***OPHIS***'S CASTING OF ***GWEN FAIRLING*** AS THE "MOTHER MARY."

WHILE SOME CHRISTIANS SEE THE CLONE AS A ***SECOND COMING*** OF THEIR LORD, OTHERS SEE IT AND FAIRLING AS A MASSIVE INSULT TO THEIR BELIEFS.

LET'S START WITH ***DR. CLARK***--EVOLUTIONARY SCIENTIST AND OUTSPOKEN ATHEIST. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE REACTION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY TO ***J2?***

IT'S A LOAD OF BUNK. THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANY ***EVIDENCE*** THAT THE SHROUD IS AS OLD AS CHRISTIANS WOULD ***LIKE*** TO BELIEVE. AND CARBON DATING HAS ***PROVEN*** THAT.

DROP!

MOST IMPORTANT HERE IS ***NO ONE*** OUTSIDE OF ***OPHIS*** HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO ***VERIFY*** THE VALIDITY OF THE ***DNA.***

BLASPHEMY. CARBON DATING IS FLAWED--THE SHROUD IS ***REAL*** AND THAT PROVES JESUS WAS, TOO!

IS WHAT FATHER STERLING SAYS TRUE?

THERE'S NO ***DISPUTING*** CARBON DATA. AND THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANY ***EMPIRICAL*** EVIDENCE THAT A PERSON NAMED JESUS CHRIST ***EVER*** EXISTED.

HOW DARE YOU! SCIENTISTS ARE ***NOT*** TO BE TRUSTED!

THEIR ***ARROGANCE*** HAS GIVEN US ATOMIC BOMBS AND NUCLEAR WASTE. THEY TELL US THAT WE ALL COME FROM MONKEYS, AND THEY ***INSIST*** ON TELLING THAT TO OUR CHILDREN.

SHLUK!

EVOLUTION THROUGH NATURAL SELECTION IS A FACT. THE FOSSIL RECORD PROVES IT.

CHOCOLATE FUDGE

EVOLUTION IS JUST A THEORY!

SO IS GRAVITY.

FLURRRP!

NON-BELIEVERS LIKE YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE A LOT TO ANSWER FOR WHEN HE ARRIVES!

SO YOU SEE THIS AS A SECOND COMING?

OF COURSE! AND IT MAKES ***PERFECT*** SENSE THAT JESUS WOULD CHOOSE TO COME TO AMERICA! GOD BLESSED THIS NATION OVER ALL OTHERS! THAT'S WHY HE'S ON OUR MONEY.

GLORP

YOU'RE A MORON.

"THIS COUNTRY WAS FOUNDED BY CHRISTIANS! OUR FOREFATHERS WERE ALL BELIEVERS!"

"JEFFERSON USED TO ***RIP*** PAGES OUT OF HIS OWN BIBLE! THE LAST THING OUR FOREFATHERS WANTED WAS FOR THIS NATION TO BECOME ***'THE UNITED STATES OF JESUS'...***

"...I JUST HOPE THIS CLONE ISN'T ***DELUSIONAL*** ENOUGH TO THINK HE'S ACTUALLY JESUS. IMAGINE IF HE RAN FOR OFFICE! HE'D WIN IN A LANDSLIDE--ASSUMING HE WASN'T ASSASSINATED FIRST.

"HIS MOTHER MARY WON'T BE ABLE TO SAVE HIM FROM THAT."

ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE--TWO MINUTES!

I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR JOINING US AT THIS ***HISTORIC*** EVENT, THE MOST ***ANTICIPATED*** BROADCAST IN HISTORY...

LIVE

11:59pm COUNTDOWN TO MIDNIGHT :15 seconds

12 CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATION SPECIAL

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

THIS ***SUCKS.*** ARE YOU SURE THERE'S ONLY ONE BABY IN THERE?

TIME FOR EVERYONE TO LEAVE EXCEPT THE NURSES. WE'VE GOT TWO MINUTES.

YOU'RE DOING WELL. I'M GIVING YOU A SEDATIVE TO HELP WITH THE PAIN.

EERGH--FUCK, THAT HURTS.

ARE YOU SURE I'M DOING THE ***RIGHT*** THING? AM I A ***BAD*** MOTHER FOR DOING ALL THIS TO MY BABY? WHAT IF THE REALITY SHOW RUINS HIS LIFE?

GOD, THIS WAS A ***MISTAKE.*** I'M ALREADY A BAD MOTHER.

I'M A BAD MOTHER.

ALL RIGHT, PEOPLE, THIS IS THE **MOMENT** WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR. I GIVE YOU **THE NEW JESUS CHRIST** IN **FOUR...**

11:59pm
COUNTDOWN TO BIRTH
:04 seconds

THREE!

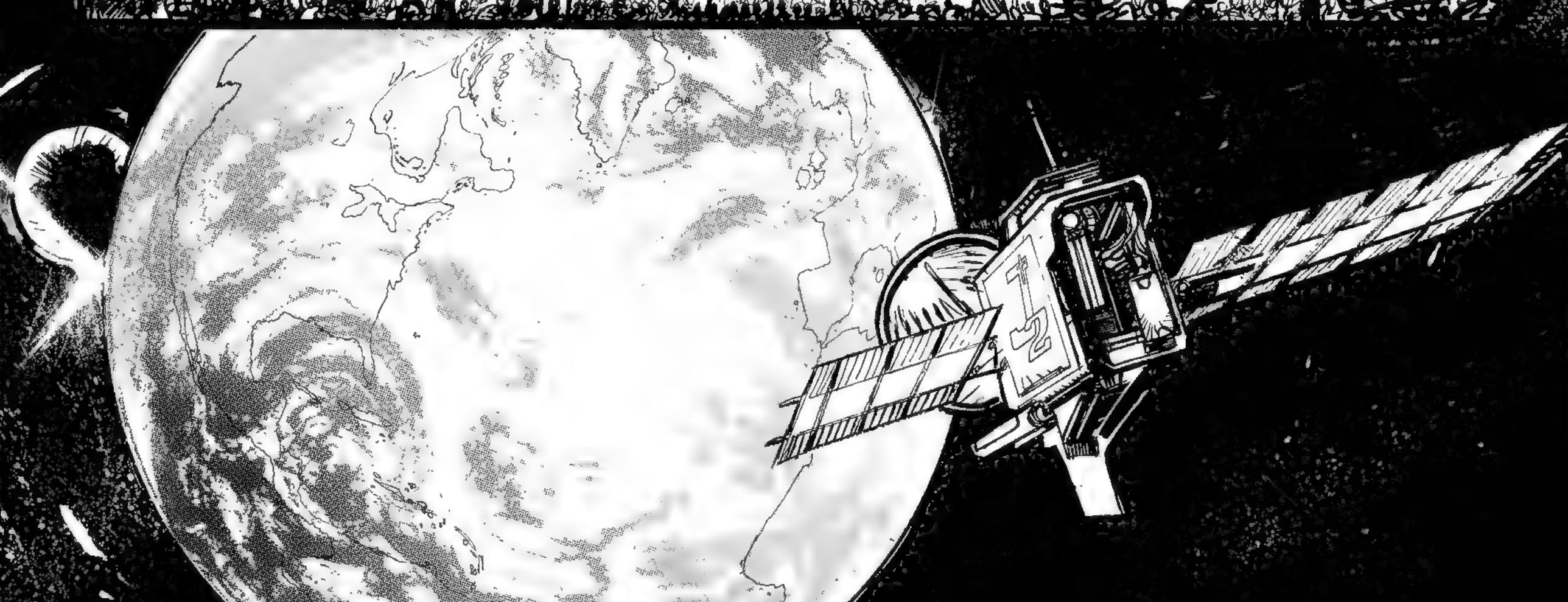
COKE KOLA
LIVE :03
Virgin
SWAT
THE LION KING
CATS

ДВА!

:02

I-CHI!

LIVE :01
NOVA
イーオン
見よあ



GOOD JOB, GWEN. CONGRATULATIONS.

HE'S SO **BEAUTIFUL!** OH MY GOD!

WAAAAAAAAA!!

OH MY GOD! OH MY GOD! IS HE OKAY? IS EVERYTHING HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE?

HE'S PERFECT. YOU DID A GREAT JOB, GWEN.

WAAA!

I FEEL REALLY SLEEPY.

I'LL CLEAN HIM UP--YOU SHOULD REST.

IS GWEN ALL RIGHT? I THINK SHE'S ABOUT TO PASS OUT.

I WANT TO LIMIT HIS EXPOSURE TO INFECTION, SO I NEED EVERYONE TO LEAVE.

OKAY! THANK YOU, EVERYONE. ***NICE WORK.*** I NEED TO HAVE A QUICK WORD WITH THE DOCTOR.

HOW'S SHE DOING?

SHE'LL BE OUT IN A FEW SECONDS.

DID ANY OF THE NURSES SEE ANYTHING?

I CAN'T BELIEVE I AGREED TO THIS.

THIS IS ***YOUR*** FUCKING FAULT!

IF YOU HADN'T ***LIED*** FOR THE LAST NINE MONTHS, WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO DO THIS!

I LIED BECAUSE I ***KNEW*** WHAT YOU'D ASK ME TO DO!

YOU SHOULD HAVE ***ABORTED*** IT. YOU'RE LUCKY I WAS ABLE TO WHIP UP SOME ***CGI*** OF GWEN HOLDING HER NEW BABY.

LIVE

THE FOOTAGE IS RUNNING RIGHT NOW, BUT WE HAVE TO HURRY.

WAAAA!

A ***TWIN SISTER*** COULD RUIN EVERYTHING.

JESUS, GWEN LOOKS DEAD. HOW MUCH DID YOU GIVE HER, ANYWAY?

TWO MILLILITERS OF A 50MG/ML SEDATIVE. ANY MORE AND SHE WOULD BE DEAD. I WANTED TO BE SURE SHE WOULDN'T BE ***AWAKE*** FOR THIS.

DO YOU THINK SHE SUSPECTS ANYTHING?

NO ONE KNOWS BUT YOU AND ME, AND THE SEDATIVE IS UNTRACE-ABLE...

...IT WON'T SHOW UP ON ANY TESTS.

SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO ***DO*** WITH HER?

I FOUND A FOSTER HOME WHERE SHE'LL BE SAFE. JUST PUT HER IN HERE.

...B...BAD... MOM...

...B... BLUE EYED...

HOW DO YOU FEEL?

WHAT'S YOUR TAKE ON THE *NAC*?

OMIGOD!

HERE HE IS, ALL CLEANED UP.

WHAT'S HIS MIDDLE NAME?

WHEN'S THE BAPTISM?

WHEN CAN HE LEAVE THE ISLAND?

ANY THOUGHT TO WHICH COLLEGE HE'LL ATTEND?

SO WHAT ARE YOU GONNA CALL HIM?

I ***GUESS*** WE'LL CALL HIM JESUS. IT SOUNDS ***WEIRD*** CALLING SOMEONE THAT, RIGHT?

YEAH, IT IS WEIRD.

HOW ABOUT ***CHRIS?*** CHRIS IS PRETTY CLOSE TO CHRIST.

CHRIS.

HE LOOKS LIKE A CHRIS.

WELCOME TO EARTH, LITTLE CHRIS.

PRAY THE CRAZINESS IS BEHIND US.

VROOM

SLATE-T

WAAA!

RELAX-- IT'S JUST A LITTLE WATER.

WAAA!

SHHH. SHHHHHH...

I KNOW. I DON'T LIKE THE RAIN EITHER...

...ALMOST OVER...

ONE INJECTION SHOULD DO IT.

WHAAAA! WHAAAAA!

AND IN CASE *THAT* DOESN'T WORK...

JUNE 2020

CRUCIFY the CLONE

JESUS IS LORD

1,2,3,4, LET GWEN FAIRLING OUT THE DOOR!

5,6,7,8, YOUR JESUS CLONE IS JUST A FAKE!

WHAT DO WE WANT?

GWEN RELEASED!

WHEN DO WE WANT IT?

NOW!!

IT'S BEEN SIX MONTHS, THOMAS, AND THEY WON'T STOP.

GET THE LIFE PRESERVERS READY AND 'AVE MEDICAL UNITS STANDING BY.

TELL THEM WE'RE GOING TO NEED MEN IN THE WATER.

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?

I'M GONNA DROWN THEM.

9,10,11,12, SATAN TAKE J2 TO HELL...

VROOOOOOM

SATAN TV

JESUS

AHHHH!

VRAM!

SPLASH!

TAKE THE WHEEL, TIM.

JESUS, YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR FUCKING MIND!

VROOM!

WE'RE THE NEW AMERICAN CHRISTIANS AND WE DEMAND THIS ISLAND PRISON BE CONDEMNED!

WE'RE MESSENGERS OF THE *LORD!*

NOTHING CAN STOP THE *N.A.C.!*

NOTHING WILL STAND IN OUR--

BLAM!

TWANG

VROOOOOM

GLIRK.

DAMN, DUDE, YOU'RE LIKE *MOBY DICK.*

MOBY DICK WAS THE WHALE. I'M AHAB.

NO, I'M PRETTY SURE YOU'RE A DICK.

SPLOOSH!

YOU CAN'T KEEP ME HERE LIKE SOME ANIMAL! I ***DEMAND*** TO BE RELEASED!

WE'RE ONLY HOLDING YOU UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVE.

THIS WAS A ***PEACEFUL*** DEMONSTRATION!

YOU ***TRESPASSED*** ON PRIVATE PROPERTY, MS. MILTON. AND MANY OF YOUR FOLLOWERS WERE CARRYING GUNS.

THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS IS A ***GUARANTEE*** OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION! BESIDES, YOU'RE THE ONES WHO ASSAULTED ***US!***

NO ONE WAS SERIOUSLY HURT. AND ***J2*** IS ADDRESSING ANY MINOR INJURIES AS WE SPEAK. MY SECURITY CHIEF TOOK APPROPRIATE DEFENSIVE MEASURES.

YOUR GORILLA HENCHMAN ONCE PUT A GUN IN MY MOUTH. HOW IS THAT APPROPRIATE?

THE N.A.C. IS BACKED BY THE TEA PARTY, THE N.R.A. AND DOZENS OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS. WE WON'T REST UNTIL THAT INNOCENT ***GIRL*** AND HER ***BABY*** ARE RELEASED. OR UNTIL THIS WHOLE ISLAND IS BURNED DOWN.

WE'RE NOT FILING ANY ***CHARGES,*** MS. MILTON. N.A.C. ASSAULTS ONLY WORK TO ***J2'S*** ADVANTAGE.

OH, ***REALLY?***

THE RATINGS ***SPIKE*** EVERY TIME YOU APPEAR ON ***J2.***

MR. McKAEL HERE IS THE SHOW'S SECOND MOST POPULAR CHARACTER--PEOPLE ***LOVE*** SEEING HIM KICK YOUR ASSES.

GRANTED, WE LOSE MONEY ON PAIN-AND-SUFFERING LAWSUITS RAISED BY THE VICTIMS, BUT WE ALWAYS COME OUT ON TOP THROUGH INCREASED NETWORK TRAFFIC AND ADVERTISING.

IN OTHER WORDS, I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN ***REAL*** SOON.

YOU'RE FREE TO LEAVE. I'VE GOT TO PUT A BABY ON THE AIR.

THAT WHIP IS 80 YEARS OLD, MAN. IF YOU DON'T STOP MESSING WITH IT, I'M GONNA ***SLAP*** YOU. CUSTOM PARTS DECREASE THE VALUE.

CAN'T FIND ORIGINAL PARTS ANYMORE.

USE YOUR ***J2*** MONEY TO BUILD A CUSTOM. I'LL EVEN HELP--YOU OBVIOUSLY DON'T KNOW ***DICK*** ABOUT ELECTRONICS.

GO AWAY.

IT'S A FAIR DEAL, MAN! JUST SHOW ME A FEW ***TAKEDOWNS*** AND WE'LL CALL IT EVEN.

I DON'T KNOW--YEH PROMISE ***NOT*** TO NAG ME THE WHOLE TIME?

YOU KNOW I CAN'T DO THAT.

STIFF LITTLE FINGERS? NEVER SAW YOU AS A PUNK ROCKER. AND AIN'T SEEN A RECORD PLAYER FOR YEARS.

EVER GO TO CONCERTS?

SOUND IS BETTER. BUT IT'S HARD TO ***HEAR*** IT IF SOMEONE'S TALKING OVER IT.

WHEN I WAS YOUNGER. FIRST GOT MY ARSE KICKED AT AN ***SLF*** SHOW BY A BUNCH OF ***PRODDIES*** WHEN I WAS TWELVE.

THAT WHEN YOU LEARNED TO FIGHT?

AY--STARTED TRAINING WITH MY UNCLE. MOSTLY BOXING AND BRAWLING--MY TECHNIQUE WAS A MESS, BUT MY SIZE MADE UP FER IT. AND MY ***NERVE.*** IT WASN'T UNTIL I JOINED THE ***SRR*** THAT I BECAME PROPERLY TRAINED.

SPECIAL RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT FOR THE BRITISH ARMED FORCES

IMPRESSIVE--MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW THAT.

AND THAT'S WHEN THEY MADE YOU INTO A ***UNIVERSAL SOLDIER?***

SORT OF--I HELPED CONDUCT SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. MY ***IRA*** BACKGROUND MADE ME AN ASSET, BUT IT WAS A WHILE BEFORE THEY GAVE ME A WEAPON.

WHY DID YOU QUIT?

BECAUSE I REFUSED TO KILL ANYONE.

BUT DIDN'T YOU KILL A ***BUNCH*** OF DUDES IN IRELAND BEFORE THAT?

AND THAT WAS THE ***LAST*** TIME.

YOU "VOWED NEVER TO KILL AGAIN"? HA, HA--THAT'S SOME SHIT STRAIGHT OUT OF A BAD ***ANIME.*** AND VOWS LIKE THAT ARE USUALLY BROKEN BEFORE THE END OF THE STORY.

LOOK, CHRIS!

YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE A LOT OF FRIENDS, LITTLE MAN.

NOT EXACTLY.

WORD WALL

JESUS LOVES AMERICA

THIS LEARNING CENTER IS DESIGNED TO GIVE YOUR SON A STATE-OF-THE-ART EDUCATION. ALLOWING OTHER CHILDREN ONTO THE ISLAND IS A SECURITY RISK, SO WE'RE GOING TO MAKE DO WITH HOLOGRAPHIC CLASSMATES.

THAT SOUNDS... STRANGE.

BOOP.

TIM CAME UP WITH VARYING ALGORITHMS THAT DICTATE THE BEHAVIOR OF THE OTHER STUDENTS. CHRIS WON'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.

BUT THEY'RE NOT REAL.

SHE'S RIGHT, RICK. HUMAN INTERACTION IS BASED ON MORE THAN JUST VISUAL CUES.

PHYSICAL CONTACT AND PHEROMONE PRODUCTION ARE PART OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. HOLOGRAMS WON'T DO.

HE DOESN'T SEEM TO NOTICE, DOCTOR.

WHAT KINDS OF THINGS WILL HE BE LEARNING?

MATH, ENGLISH, AMERICAN HISTORY, CREATIONISM, AND FAITH HEALING.

CREATIONISM AND FAITH HEALING? YOU'RE KIDDING ME.

MANY OF OUR VIEWERS ARE FUNDAMENTALIST AND WOULD BE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THEIR SAVIOR LEARNING ABOUT SCIENCE AND EVOLUTION.

THAT'S RIDICULOUS! THE BENEFIT OF A BILLION-DOLLAR LEARNING CENTER, AND ALL YOU TEACH IS DOGMA?

IT'S THE AMERICAN WAY.

DO YOU ACTUALLY THINK HE'LL START PERFORMING MIRACLES IF YOU TEACH HIM FAITH HEALING?

OF COURSE NOT. I HAD SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND FOR THAT.

LIVE

DON BAKER HERE LIVE WITH THIS SPECIAL BULLETIN.

REPORTS ARE IN THAT JUST MINUTES AGO THE ***JESUS CLONE*** PERFORMED HIS FIRST MIRACLE ON LIVE TELEVISION.

GENESIS

THE FOOTAGE SEEMS TO SHOW THE INFANT SPELLING OUT THE WORD ***GENESIS*** WITH A SET OF WOODEN BLOCKS.

JUNE 29 2020 | the Boiler Room with DON BAKER | 9:01p PT

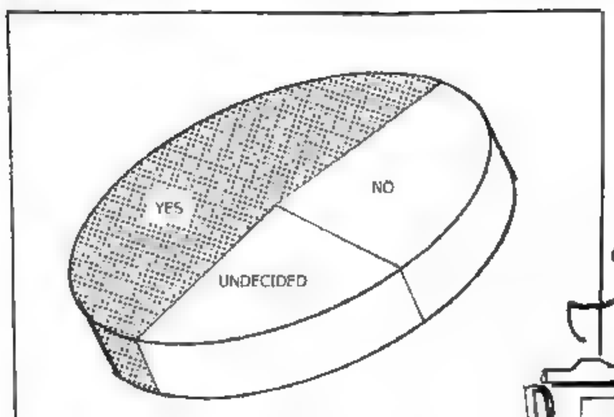
J2 PRODUCER RICK SLATE ***WITNESSED*** THE MIRACLE FIRST-HAND AND IS CALLING ON THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TO OFFICIALLY DECLARE THIS EVENT AS A ***EUCHARIST MIRACLE.***

MINUTES LATER A ***TWEET*** WAS RELEASED FROM THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AGREEING TO OPEN AN INVESTIGATION.

MEANWHILE, SKEPTICS LIKE DR. CARL CLARK ARE HARDLY CONVINCED.

THIS IS COMPLETE BALONEY! SIX-MONTH-OLDS LACK THE ***DEXTERITY*** TO DO SUCH A THING. IT MUST HAVE BEEN ***CGI*** OR SOME OTHER FORM OF CAMERA TRICKERY.

AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S CLAIM TO VERIFY MIRACLES IS AND ***ALWAYS*** WILL BE NONSENSE. MIRACLES NEVER HAPPEN--THEY VIOLATE THE LAWS OF PHYSICS.



WHILE CONTROVERSY ABOUT THE CLONE CONTINUES, WE CAN REPORT WITH CERTAINTY THAT ***J2*** IS THE ***BIGGEST SHOW*** IN HISTORY. OVER THREE BILLION PEOPLE TUNE IN DAILY. THAT'S THE EQUIVALENT OF ***27 SUPERBOWLS'*** WORTH OF VIEWERS.

BUT THE REAL QUESTION IS, HOW DOES ***GWEN FAIRLING*** FEEL ABOUT THIS?

WHERE THE HELL ***ARE*** THEY? THEY'RE GODDAMN GRANDPARENTS NOW--YOU'D THINK THEY'D WANT TO SEE THEIR GRANDSON.

COMPUTER, SWITCH TO MY HOME.

THIS IS WHERE YOU LIVE, GWEN? IT'S BEAUTIFUL.

IT'S WHERE I ***USED*** TO LIVE.

WHEN ***J2*** STARTED, WE WERE HARASSED BY REPORTERS. INSTEAD OF USING THE MONEY WE GOT FROM ***J2*** TO PAY OFF OUR MORTGAGE, MY PARENTS BUILT A HUGE SECURITY FENCE. IT BLOCKED OUT THE LIGHT DURING SUNSETS.

THIS IS HOW I PREFER TO REMEMBER IT.

DO YOU HAVE ANY KIDS, DOCTOR?

I TRIED BUT IT DIDN'T WORK OUT.

DOES YOUR FAMILY EVER VISIT?

NO, WE'RE ESTRANGED.

MY FATHER WAS A DEFENSE ATTORNEY FOR CORPORATE POLLUTERS--I WAS A ***HIPPIE***. IN COLLEGE I WAS ARRESTED FOR SABOTAGING SOME DEFORESTATION EQUIPMENT.

HE LEFT ME IN JAIL FOR A ***WEEK*** BEFORE PLEADING MY CASE. THAT'S WHEN I BROKE CONTACT WITH HIM.

BUT HE'S YOUR DAD.

HE'S MORE STRESS THAN IT'S WORTH.

SO NOW ***COLA*** IS YOUR FAMILY?

THE BEST FRIEND I EVER HAD.

ARE ALL POLAR BEARS THIS PLAYFUL?

HA, HA-- NO. IN ORDER TO STUDY HIM, I HAD TO ALTER HIS GENES TO MAKE HIM MORE FRIENDLY.

HE'S LIKE A BIG PUPPY!

I THINK CHRIS HAS A NEW BEST FRIEND.

WE SHOULD TALK TO THOMAS ABOUT GOING TO SEE YOUR PARENTS. IT'S A SECURITY ISSUE, SO HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HELP.

THOMAS WON'T DO ANY-THING. I DON'T EVEN THINK HE ***LIKES*** ME.

HE DOESN'T LIKE ANYONE, SO DON'T TAKE IT PERSON-ALLY.

THEY'LL SHOW--I KNOW THEY WILL. THE DAY ISN'T OVER YET.

NO SIGN OF HER PARENTS. I'LL LOCK THE ISLAND DOWN FOR THE NIGHT, THEN.

SHE WAS FINE EARLIER, BUT THEN SHE BECAME SO DISTANT AND DEPRESSED--SHE WON'T EVEN ***HOLD*** CHRIS.

SHE'S ONLY EIGHTEEN, THOMAS, AND I DON'T THINK SHE REALIZED WHAT SHE SIGNED UP FOR.

THE N.A.C. IS RIGHT--SHE'S ESSENTIALLY A PRISONER HERE.

IT'S PEOPLE LIKE THE N.A.C. THAT ***MAKE*** GWEN A PRISONER HERE. THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE SHE'S SAFE.

LOOK AT HER. DOES SHE LOOK ***SAFE*** TO YOU?

YOU'RE MEANT TO PROTECT HER AND THE BABY. AND YOU'RE ***NOT*** DOING YOUR JOB.

SHE'S STILL A KID, TOO, AND SHE NEEDS HER ***FAMILY.***

CAREFUL, THOMAS. THIS ISN'T OUR SIDE OF THE STREET. AND THAT PARK DOESN'T BELONG TO US.

COME WITH ME. GOT SOMETHING I WANT TO SHOW YEH.

THIS IS ***OUR*** SIDE OF THE STREET. AND THAT'S ***OUR*** PUB. YER DAD AND I USED TO COME HERE A LOT.

An Diabhal Dearg

OVER HERE, BOY. SOMETHING I NEED TO SHOW YEH.

THERE'S A LAD.

NO KIDS AT THE BAR, SULLY.

THIS IS TOM'S SON.

AH--SIT ALL YOU LIKE, LITTLE TOM. SORRY ABOUT YER DAD. GOOD MAN. A SOUND MOTHER FUCKER.

TAKE THIS PHOTOGRAPH, THOMAS.

I KNOW. HURTS LIKE HELL. I MISS 'IM TOO.

I'M SORRY I GOT ANGRY THAT NIGHT. IT WASN'T YER FAULT WHAT HAPPENED.

YER PARENTS DIED BECAUSE OF THE WAR GOING ON AROUND THEM, NOT BECAUSE OF YOU.

BUT I KILLED THEM.

NOT ON PURPOSE. YER DAD WOULD HAVE CALLED OUT TO YEH IF HE COULD--WAS NO KNOWIN' HE'D BEEN SHOT IN THE THROAT.

YOU WERE FOLLOWIN' ORDERS, THOMAS. YER DAD WOULD HAVE BEEN PROUD.

SEE THAT BOARD WITH ***ALL*** THE PICTURES? THOSE WERE FRIENDS OF YER DAD. THOSE ARE DEAD CATHOLICS.

THEY DIED FOR THE ***CAUSE.*** THEY FOUGHT THE PROTESTANT OPPRESSION.

THAT'S THE ***REASON*** YEH CAN'T PLAY FOOTIE ACROSS THE STREET.

BE A GOOD FELLA AND PUT THAT ***PHOTO*** UP WITH THE OTHERS.

CAN I GET A PINT, EAMON?

AYE.

THE POLICE, THE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY, IS FILLED WITH PROTESTANT OFFICERS WHO DON'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT CATHOLICS.

THEY WON'T EVEN ***TRY*** TO FIND THE MEN WHO KILLED YEH FOLKS.

BUT ***I*** WILL.

AND YER COMING ***WITH*** ME.

I'LL SHOW YEH WHAT YER FATHER WANTED FOR YEH. I CAN MAKE YEH INTO A SOLDIER LIKE HIM AND ONE DAY, WHEN YER A MAN, YEH CAN HELP END THE WAR THAT PUT SO MANY PHOTOS ON OUR WALL.

THAT'S GOD'S PLAN FOR YEH, THOMAS. AND IT WAS YER FATHER'S PLAN. YOU'VE GOT TO BE READY TO GIVE YER ***LIFE.***

SO DO YEH WANT TO CONTINUE BEING A LAD, OR DO YEH WANT TO BE THE MAN GOD WANTS YEH TO BE?

I WANT TO BE LIKE MY DAD.

BIESKI
VODKA

DR. EPSTEIN-- WE'VE GOT A BIG PROBLEM.

I FOUND THIS ON GWEN. I DON'T ALLOW ANY ALCOHOL ON THE ISLAND--SHE MUST HAVE SNUCK IT IN SOME-HOW.

VODKA

CLEARLY, THERE'S A ***LOT*** I'M UNAWARE OF.

GWEN IS SHOWING NORMAL SIGNS OF ***POST-PARTUM DEPRESSION.*** BUT IT'S BEEN MADE WORSE BY ***J2*** AND SLATE.

AND ALL HER PREVIOUS SURGERIES MIGHT BE HAVING A DELAYED REACTION.

WHAT SURGERIES?

AFTER SLATE ***SELECTED*** GWEN, HE GAVE HER BREAST IMPLANTS, STRAIGHTER TEETH, AND A NOSE JOB.

HE DYED HER HAIR BLONDE AND PUT HER ON AN INTENSE EXERCISE ROUTINE SO SHE'D MAINTAIN HER FIGURE THROUGH-OUT PREGNANCY.

YOU'RE ***HER*** DOCTOR! WHY'D YOU LET HER GO THROUGH ALL THAT?

SLATE WANTS WHAT'S ***BEST*** FOR THE SHOW-- YOU KNOW THAT. ANY TIME I TRY TO STAND UP FOR GWEN, HE RESPONDS WITH THE USUAL THREATS TO SHUT DOWN MY RESEARCH.

I'LL TALK TO SLATE.

ONE MORE THING. I'M SURE YOU'LL ***FIND OUT*** EVENTUALLY, SO BETTER TO HEAR IT FROM ME--

--LOOKS LIKE CHRIS WILL HAVE A ***PLAYMATE.***

YOU'RE PREGNANT! THAT MEANS WE'RE GONNA BE ***BABY-MOMMIES*** TOGETHER!

DAMN, GIRL. LOOK AT YOU BEING ALL KNOCKED UP AND SHIT. WHO'S THE ***LUCKY*** DUDE?

IT'S NONE OF OUR BUSINESS, TIM.

I DISAGREE. THIS AFFECTS YOUR WORK WITH J2.

I THINK IT'S A MATTER OF ***SECURITY*** THAT YOU DISCLOSE THE NAME OF THE MAN INVOLVED.

SO WHO'S THE LUCKY DUDE?

ANONY-MOUS DONOR.

CHRIS WILL HAVE A FRIEND HIS ***OWN*** AGE! BOY OR GIRL?

GIRL. I'M GOING TO NAME HER ***REBEKAH.***

CONGRATS, DOCTOR. RATINGS HAVE PLATEAUED LATELY, SO THIS SHOULD HELP ***SHAKE*** THINGS UP!

I INSIST THAT SHE ***STAY*** HERE ON THE ISLAND. WE'LL BUILD REBEKAH HER OWN ROOM AND EVERYTHING.

NO DEAL. I'LL BRING HER TO WORK WITH ME AND SHE'LL BE PART OF THE SHOW, BUT SHE COMES HOME WITH ***ME*** EACH DAY.

AND THAT'S ***FINAL.***

WE'LL SEE.

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU ***COULDN'T*** HAVE KIDS.

CLONING CHRIS HELPED ME FIND A WAY AROUND THE PROBLEM. SO I DECIDED TO GIVE IT ANOTHER TRY.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE THE ISLAND WITH THE CHILD, I INSIST YEH TAKE THIS HOMING DEVICE. IF THERE'S ANY TROUBLE, I'LL BE ABLE TO COME TO YER AID.

UH... THAT'S OKAY, THOMAS--

YOU AND THE CHILD WILL LIKELY BECOME A TARGET. I'D BE HAPPY TO NEUTRALIZE ANYONE WHO POSES A THREAT.

UH... OKAY.

AND I PAINTED IT ***PINK*** BECAUSE YOU'RE HAVING A GIRL.

DINER

MR. SLATE. A WORD, PLEASE.

TALK ***FAST,*** MY FRIEND. I'VE GOT MEETINGS WITH ADVERTISERS.

I'D LIKE PERMISSION TO TAKE GWEN TO SEE HER PARENTS-- MAYBE CHEER HER UP. SHE'S DEVELOPING A ***DRINKING*** PROBLEM, AND THE DOCTOR THINKS IT'S STRESS RELATED.

WHO DO YOU THINK GAVE HER THE ALCOHOL?

WHAT?

SHE'S ALL ***MOPEY*** LATELY-- I THOUGHT IT WOULD HELP. IT'S NOT LIKE SHE'S BREAST FEEDING.

DUE TO THE BREAST IMPLANTS YOU STUCK INTO HER.

NOW YOU SOUND ***JUST*** LIKE EPSTEIN.

DON'T PRESS ME, THOMAS. I BACK YOUR ***EVERY*** MOVE IN SECURITY. AND THAT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY. OR CHEAP.

THE RULES NEED TO CHANGE. IT'S ABUSIVE TO HER AND THE CHILD.

ISN'T THIS MATTER A LITTLE ***OUT*** OF YOUR JURISDICTION?

EPSTEIN IS WORRIED.

AND SUDDENLY YOU ***TWO*** ARE GETTING ALONG?

LET HER DRINK. IT'S GOOD FOR RATINGS. THE AUDIENCE ***LOVES*** TO HATE HER. YOU SHOULD SEE THE MAIL SHE GETS EACH WEEK.

BUT--

AND NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, SHE ***STAYS*** ON THE ISLAND. WITH THE CLONE. AND IF THE AUDIENCE LIKES REBEKAH, I'LL FIND A WAY TO KEEP HER HERE AS WELL.

I WON'T ALLOW THAT.

YES YOU WILL. IF YOU WANT TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON YOUR COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING THAT BABY, YOU WILL.

WE GOT OURSELVES A LITTLE SWIMMER, HERE.

YEAH, AND SOON HE'LL BE WALKING ON WATER.

HA,HA--IF THAT WAS TRUE, THEN WHAT'S TO STOP LITTLE MAN FROM WALKING OUTTA HERE?

ONLY IF I CAN GO WITH HIM.

BE RIGHT BACK. I GOTTA GO REFILL HIS BOTTLE.

LOOK AT THOSE ***ARMS,*** CHRIS! YOU LOOK LIKE THOMAS! EXCEPT YOU DON'T SMILE AS MUCH.

Pour.

HERE YOU GO. DRINK UP, LITTLE MAN.

THIS ***ISN'T*** JUICE, GWEN. THIS IS WINE.

LIVE

JUICY JUICE DRINK

THIS JUST IN--THE JESUS CLONE HAS PERFORMED HIS ***SECOND*** MIRACLE. HE APPARENTLY TURNED JUICE INTO WINE.

LET'S CUT DIRECTLY TO A NEWS CONFERENCE ATOP THE ***J2*** COMPLEX ALREADY IN PROGRESS.

JULY 9 2020

the Boiler Room with DON BAKER

3:45p PT

SO HOW DO WE KNOW THAT THIS IS ***REALLY*** A MIRACLE?

J2 PROHIBITS ALCOHOL ON THE ISLAND. SECURITY SCANS ALL EMPLOYEES DAILY TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE NOT SMUGGLING IN ANYTHING.

SO I THINK, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN--WE HAVE OUR CHILD'S ***SECOND*** MIRACLE!

GWEN, TELL US WHAT HAPPENED!

DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?

ARE YOU AN ALCOHOLIC?

UH, GWEN'S JUST A LITTLE ***TIRED***--SHE WAS IN THE SUN FOR TOO LONG. AND AS FOR REPORTS OF HER DRINKING, I REMIND YOU NO DRINKS ARE ALLOWED ON THE ISLAND.

WHAT ABOUT THAT BOTTLE OF ***VODKA*** THAT MR. McKAEL FOUND UNDER GWEN'S PILLOW?

I NEED TO LEAVE! I CAN'T STAY HERE--I NEED TO GO.

WHAT'S WRONG, GWEN?

WHAT HAPPENED?

IT'S NOT A MIRACLE, I ACCIDENTALLY GAVE HIM ***WINE.*** SHIT--I'M SUCH A ***BAD*** MOTHER.

MY SECRET BOTTLE IN THE FRIDGE BY THE POOL. SLATE GAVE IT TO ME AND NOW EVERYONE THINKS IT'S ANOTHER MIRACLE BUT REALLY HE'S JUST A NORMAL KID BUT I'M A BAD MOTHER AND I NEED TO LEAVE BECAUSE I CAN'T ***TAKE*** THIS ANYMORE!

YOU CAN'T LEAVE, GWEN. YOU NEED HELP.

I NEED ***YOUR*** HELP!

GWEN!

JINGLE JINGLE

JINGLE JINGLE

JAN CALIFORNIA SLATE-1

ENTER

VRROOMM

VMAS

KRUNCH!

HOLY SHIT!

TAKE THE BABY.

GODDAMN IT!

TAKE ME OFF THIS FUCKING ISLAND OR I PROMISE I'LL ***KILL*** MYSELF!

AND I FUCKING ***MEAN*** IT--DON'T THINK I WON'T!

GIRL MEANS BUSINESS, YO.

I'LL DISTRACT SLATE AND WATCH CHRIS. YOU TWO HIT THE ROAD.

TIM! HAVE YOU SEEN GWEN? I WANT HER TO DO ANOTHER INTERVIEW.

I WOULDN'T GO IN THERE, MAN. GIRL'S ***PMS***-ING LIKE CRAZY.

WHAT'S GOING ON? WHERE'S HE--

ENTRANCE

GIRL NEEDS A BREAK, MAN. NOTHIN' CAN BE DONE.

--THE FUCK? THEY'RE NOT GOING ***ANY-WHERE***--

SECURITY CONTROLS

WHY ISN'T MY COMPUTER WORKING, TIM? DID YOU ***HACK*** THE SYSTEM?!

SECURITY SYSTEM ACCESS DENIED

I ***DESIGNED*** THE SYSTEM.

WHERE THE ***HELL*** IS MY CAR?!

RICK SLATE

VRROOOM

FORECLOSUR

Due to non payment and abandonment
of those premises, this property has be
foreclosed on and is officially in
possession by the Northern Californi
Home Loans Servicing, LP

NO TRESPASSING. All respas
will be prosecuted to the full ext
the law. To report any suspicious
use the contact information b

SORRY, GWEN.

VROOM!

NEVER HEARD OF M&M AND BANANA PANCAKES BEFORE.

I JUST INVENTED THEM.

Hazelnut

THEY LOOK... COLORFUL.

MY PARENTS WOULD NEVER LET ME EAT THEM. BUT THEY'RE GONE NOW, SO THESE PANCAKES BELONG TO ME.

IF YEH WANT, I CAN TRACK THEM DOWN.

WHY WOULD THEY JUST LEAVE LIKE THAT?

PEOPLE ARE UNPREDICTABLE WHEN THEY FEEL THREATENED IN THEIR OWN HOME.

THIS IS MY FAULT.

NO IT ISN'T.

Order and Pay HERE

DO YOU THINK THAT CHRIS IS REALLY JESUS CHRIST? AND THAT THIS IS THE *SECOND COMING?*

YES.

AND THAT'S WHY YOU DO THIS JOB, ISN'T IT? IT'S NOT ABOUT THE PAYCHECK.

I GOT A LOT OF SINS TO MAKE UP FER.

OMIGOD!! IT'S THEM!

IT IS YOU, GWEN! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! CAN YOU SIGN SOMETHING?

AND THAT SECURITY GUY, TOO! DUDE, YOU'RE WAY BIGGER IN REAL LIFE!

EVERYONE STEP BACK!

GWEN FAIRLING IS HERE!

INSIDE?

WHERE?

GET BEHIND ME.

I'VE ALWAYS HAD A THING FOR YOU, GWEN! BUT YOU LOOK WAY HOTTER ON CAMERA!

INTO THE BATHROOM.

OH MY GOD--IT REALLY IS HER!

GIVE ME AUDIO!

DAMN IT.

OW... THEY PULLED MY HAIR REALLY HARD.

GET BEHIND ME AND COVER YOUR EARS.

BLAM

WHUD.

HURRY.

OPEN

CAFE

CAFE

IDIOT. THE FUCK WAS I THINKING?

DAMN IT-- THEY'RE AFTER US.

HONOR ROLL STUDENT
GDBLSU
BABY ON BOARD
JESUS
LORD
VOYAGER
NEW AMERICAN CHRISTIANS
NAC
REPENT
OPHISUX

HOLY SHIT!

WE COULD USE ONE OF CHRIS'S MIRACLES RIGHT NOW...!

I LOST A CHUNK OF HAIR TO THAT CRAZED FAN. GOD, THAT HURT!

THE FUCK WAS I THINKING? I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN YEH STRAIGHT BACK TO THE ISLAND.

CAFE

VROOM!

THANKS FOR THE PANCAKES, THOUGH.

NAC SHOWED UP FAST. THEIR OPERATION MUST BE MORE COMPLEX THAN I THOUGHT.

GOD HATES RAOS

WAS THAT OUR ***FIRST*** DATE?

SHOULD BE EASY ENOUGH TO OUTRUN TWO GODDAMNED MINIVANS.

ARE YOU ***LISTENING*** TO ME?

NOT NOW, GWEN!

I SHOULD FIRE THE TWO OF THEM.

LIVE

MOTHER MARY OUTSIDE THE GATES?

SIR, MORE ***NAC*** HAVE GATHERED AROUND THE FRONT GATE. I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY'RE GOING TO MAKE IT THROUGH.

GWEN? CAN YOU ***HEAR*** ME?

TIM'S TALKING THROUGH MY HELMET-PHONE!

HE SAYS THERE'S A BUNCH OF PEOPLE *BLOCKING* THE--

TELL TIM TO LISTEN UP-- HERE'S WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO.

DRRRRTTT!!!

WE'RE *READY,* SIR.

WHOOSH

SATAN TV

AAAH!

HELP!

PUT YOUR ARM AROUND ME!

TTKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKK!!!

WUD!

I KNOW YOU TWO THINK YOU DID THE ***RIGHT*** THING FOR GWEN TONIGHT. AND YOU EXPECTED TO GET CAUGHT. AND NOW YOU'RE EXPECTING ME TO BE ANGRY.

YOU WON'T BELIEVE ME, BUT I ***CARE*** ABOUT EACH OF YOU.

I GAVE A LOT OF THOUGHT TO YOUR ***CONCERNS*** ABOUT GWEN. I DON'T WANT HER TO BE SAD, AND I DON'T WANT HER TO BE A PRISONER.

AND I DON'T ***WANT*** TO BE THE BAD GUY. SO LATELY I'VE BEEN LOOKING INTO WAYS TO SAFELY LET HER ***LEAVE***-- MAYBE EVEN START LETTING CHRIS ATTEND PUBLIC SCHOOL.

BUT AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO-NIGHT, IT'S CLEAR THAT GWEN CAN ***NEVER*** LEAVE THE ISLAND AGAIN. SHE ***IS,*** IN FACT, A PRISONER.

AND SHE HAS ***YOU*** TO THANK FOR MAKING THAT CLEAR TO ME.

THOMAS, I'M TAKING OVER AS CHIEF OF SECURITY. IF YOU WANT TO STAY WITH ***J2,*** YOU HAVE TO FALL IN LINE.

TIM, I'M TAKING OVER AS TECHNICAL CHIEF AS WELL. I WANT YOU TO WIRE ***ALL*** THE ISLAND'S CONTROLS TO MY PERSONAL iTAB. NOT A ***SINGLE*** DOOR WILL OPEN WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE.

WELCOME HOME, GWEN.

THE KING OF BABYLON FORBADE HIS PEOPLE FROM PRAYING TO ANYONE OTHER THAN THE KING HIMSELF. SO WHEN DANIEL WAS CAUGHT PRAYING TO GOD, THE KING ORDERED THAT HE BE THROWN INTO THE LION'S DEN.

THE NEW CHILDREN'S BIBLE.

THE NEW CHILDREN'S BIBLE

THE KING REALLY LIKED DANIEL, BUT HE COULDN'T ALLOW HIS RULES TO BE BROKEN. "MAY YOUR GOD RESCUE YOU," SAID THE KING. DANIEL WAS THROWN INTO THE LION'S DEN, AND A GIANT ROCK WAS PLACED OVER THE OPENING.

THAT NIGHT, BECAUSE HE WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT DANIEL, THE KING COULD NOT EAT OR SLEEP. HE RAN OUT TO THE LION'S DEN EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, CRYING, "DANIEL! HAS YOUR GOD SAVED YOU FROM THE HUNGRY LIONS?"

AND DANIEL WALKED SAFELY OUT OF THE DEN, SAYING, "YES, MY GOD HAS SAVED ME! HE SENT AN ***ANGEL*** DOWN TO SHUT THE LIONS' MOUTHS! THEY HAVE NOT HURT ME!

TOPPI

AN ANGEL.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVE, EVERYONE. I'M DON BAKER, AND TONIGHT I WELCOME MY SPECIAL GUEST RICK SLATE TO THE SHOW. RICK, THANKS FOR COMING.

THANKS, DON. BIG FAN.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE SUCCESS OF J2-- JUDGING BY THE RATINGS, IT SEEMS LIKE SEASON FIVE WILL BE THE MOST POPULAR YEAR YET.

YEP. TIME FLIES. CHRIS IS EXCITED THAT GWEN IS LETTING HIM STAY UP 'TIL MIDNIGHT.

HOW IS GWEN? THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF CONCERN ABOUT HER OVER THE YEARS.

SHE'S DOING BETTER.

"WHAT ABOUT ALL HER ESCAPE ATTEMPTS? IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S TRIED EVERYTHING TO LEAVE THE ISLAND: HIDING IN THE TRASH COMPACTOR, MAILING HERSELF OUT IN A CRATE--ONE TIME SHE ALMOST DROWNED TRYING TO SWIM AWAY.

"AND THERE WAS A LOT OF OUTCRY FROM BOTH THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND THE NAC WHEN YOU TAGGED HER WITH A HOMING BEACON."

J2 IS DOING ITS BEST. SHE'S IN THERAPY AND ON ANTI-DEPRESSANTS.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE SIDE EFFECTS?

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU'RE USING DRUGS TO PROP HER UP LIKE A PUPPET FOR WHEN THE CAMERAS ARE ON?

MOMMY! READ MORE!

SORRY, HONEY. WHERE WERE WE?

AND JESUS TOLD THE FISHERMAN--

THAT'S ***ME!***

THE NEW CHILDREN'S BIBLE

BIBLE

YES, THAT'S YOU, BABY.

AND DOES CHRIS KNOW WHO HE IS? DOES HE KNOW WHO HE'S ***SUPPOSED*** TO BE?

HE'S LEARNING, YES. WE EVEN DESIGNED A BIBLE EDUCATION COURSE IN THE HOLOGRAPHIC CLASSROOM.

"BY TURNING THE BIBLE STORIES INTO G-RATED CARTOONS, WE'RE ABLE TO GIVE CHRIS A ***STATE-OF-THE-ART*** EDUCATION."

HU-YUK!

YEAH!

CAN I REALLY ***DO*** THAT?

"I WILL ADMIT THAT THE PROGRAMS HAVE GOTTEN MORE...***INTENSE*** LATELY."

AAAHHH!

"DR. EPSTEIN, OUR RESIDENT ***SKEPTIC,*** TRIED TO STOP THE CLASSES, CLAIMING THEY WERE INAPPROPRIATE FOR KIDS. BUT SHE COULD ONLY PULL HER OWN DAUGHTER OUT--VIEWERSHIP DEMANDED THAT CHRIS ***CONTINUE*** LEARNING THE BIBLE, SO NOW HE TAKES THE CLASSES ALONE.

TELL ME ABOUT ***REBEKAH,*** EPSTEIN'S DAUGHTER. I HEAR SHE'S BECOME THE SECOND MOST POPULAR CHARACTER ON THE SHOW.

SHE AND CHRIS ARE BEST FRIENDS.

EPSTEIN BRINGS HER TO WORK ALMOST EVERY DAY NOW. COLA TAKES GOOD CARE OF THE BOTH OF THEM.

"IT'S PROBABLY A NICE DISTRACTION FOR CHRIS."

"WHAT DO YOU MEAN?"

WITH REBEKAH IN HIS LIFE, IT'S PROBABLY EASIER FOR HIM TO FORGET THAT HIS MOTHER IS SLOWLY FADING AWAY.

"FRANKLY, I'M ***OFFENDED*** BY THAT ACCUSATION."

MOMMY?

MOMMY NEEDS HER ***REST,*** LITTLE MAN. WHY DON'T YOU JOIN REBEKAH AND ME THIS AFTERNOON.

WHAT'S THAT?

THIS IS WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT TO MOMMY. IT'S CALLED *CHLAMYDOMONAS DECUPLEOXII.* I'M TRYING TO ALTER IT TO SCRUB CARBON DIOXIDE AND GIVE OFF MORE OXYGEN THAN NORMAL ALGAE.

WHAT?

IT CLEANS THE AIR.

MY MOM IS SO WEIRD.

PEOPLE ARE HEATING UP THE PLANET. AND ALGAE LIKE THIS MIGHT SAVE US FROM THINGS LIKE RISING OCEAN LEVELS AND GLOBAL WARMING.

THERE YOU ARE. I WAS WONDERING WHY CHRIS WASN'T WITH GWEN.

WE'RE HEATING THE PLANET! AND THE OCEANS ARE GETTING BIGGER!

I SEE.

DO YOU REALLY THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO BE ***TEACHING*** THE KIDS THIS STUFF?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD THEM THAT ***BULLSHIT*** ABOUT GOD DROWNING PEOPLE WITH FLOODS.

MOMMY SAID A BAD WORD!

SORRY. DON'T LET ME EVER HEAR ***YOU*** TALK LIKE THAT, OKAY?

BULLSHIT, BULLSHIT, BULLSHIT!

CHRIS! I MEAN IT.

YEAH, CHRIS! YOU NEED TO BE MORE LIKE ME. I'M THE *GOOD* ONE.

IS GOD DROWNING THE WORLD AGAIN?

OF COURSE NOT. SHE WAS ONLY KIDDING.

YOU'RE A *LIAR!* AND I DON'T *LIKE* YOU!

ME? WHAT THE *HELL* DID I DO TO YOU?

HELL, HELL, HELL, HELL!

THAT'S ***MY*** TOY!

YOU PLAYED WITH IT ***LAST*** TIME.

MAYBE WE SHOULD BUILD AN ARK FOR WHEN GOD FLOODS THE PLANET AGAIN.

WE DON'T NEED TO. I CAN WALK ON WATER, SO I'LL JUST CARRY YOU OVER THE WAVES.

YOU CAN'T DO THAT! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

YEAH I CAN. IT'S A MIR...MIR... MIRACLE. I CAN DO A MIRACLE!

WATCH.

TOLD YA.

SPLOOSH!

WHAT WAS THAT? WHERE'S CHRIS?

HE'S DOING A MIRACLE.

GET AWAY FROM THE WATER, REBEKAH! SOMEONE ***WATCH*** HER!

WHAT HAPPENED?

CHRIS FELL IN THE POOL!

COME ON, CHRIS. COME BACK.

:COUGH!:

BLARF!

GROSS!

WHAT HAPPENED?

WHERE'S SLATE?!

WHAT HAPPENED? WHY WASN'T SOMEONE WATCHING HIM?

IT'S MY FAULT, I'M SORRY. IT HAPPENED SO FAST.

WHAT WERE YOU DOING, CHRIS?

I WAS TRYING TO WALK ON WATER! I WAS DOING A MIRACLE.

I TOLD HIM IT WOULDN'T WORK.

SHUT UP, REBEKAH!

GODDAMNIT.

JESUS ALMOST DROWNS

FAILED MIRACLE

LIVE

CHANNEL 2

HEADLINE NEWS

THIS IS ALL *YOUR FAULT!*

WHUD!

GWEN, CALM DOWN. LET'S TALK.

TAKE THE CAMERAS OUTSIDE, GENTLEMEN.

YOUR STUPID CHRISTIAN CLASSES AND YOUR BULLSHIT "***MIRACLE-MAKING***" HAS MADE CHRIS THINK HE'S SOME SORT OF SUPERHERO! AND IT ALMOST ***KILLED*** HIM!

HE'S FINE, GWEN. KIDS FALL INTO POOLS ALL THE TIME.

I DON'T CARE IF HE'S JESUS OR NOT--I JUST WANT HIM TO BE SAFE. AND HE'S ***NOT*** SAFE HERE!

AND IT'S ***SAFER*** OUT THERE?

I'VE ACCEPTED THAT ***I'M*** YOUR PRISONER, BUT I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO DO THE ***SAME*** THING TO MY SON.

BREAKING NEWS

YOU'RE THE MOST ***DESPISED*** MOTHER IN HUMAN HISTORY--WHERE WERE YOU WHEN HE ALMOST DIED? GETTING DRUNK AND IGNORING HIM! HE'S SAFER HERE THAN HE'D BE WITH YOU OUT THERE.

YOU TWO AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE, SO GET THE FUCK ***OUT*** OF MY OFFICE.

MAIL

FINE.

IF PEOPLE WATCH THIS SHOW TO SEE BAD PARENTING--

--LET'S *GIVE* THEM WHAT THEY CAME FOR!

TUNK!

LET HIM GO! LET HIM HAVE A ***NORMAL*** LIFE!

IF JESUS CHRIST IS GOING TO BE AN AMERICAN, THEN LET HIM ATTEND A PUBLIC SCHOOL!

CHRIST.

I WON'T COOPERATE UNTIL YOU DO!

I CAN PLAY THIS GAME TOO, GWEN. I'LL JUST ***INCREASE*** YOUR MEDICATION UNTIL YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A SHELL.

...THINK OF THE RATINGS...THINK OF HOW MANY PEOPLE WOULD LOVE TO SEE CHRIS OUTSIDE IN THE WORLD.

WHAT?

...I KNOW IT'LL BE DANGEROUS, BUT THINK OF THE ADVERTISING...VIEWERSHIP... THE PROFITS.

AND YOU REALLY THINK IT'S ***THAT*** SIMPLE? THAT ALL I CARE ABOUT IS MONEY?

...I PROMISE I'LL BEHAVE. IF YOU PROMISE TO STOP ***INTERFERING*** WITH CHRIS'S LIFE.

...NO MORE MIRACLES. JUST LET HIM GO TO A REGULAR SCHOOL... WITH ***REAL*** CHILDREN.

DEAL.

I'D LIKE TO WELCOME MY GUEST TONIGHT--AS THE MOST **FAMOUS** HUMAN BEING IN HISTORY, HE NEEDS NO INTRODUCTION, BUT I'LL GIVE HIM ONE ANYWAY: JESUS CHRIST. BETTER KNOWN AS **CHRIS.**

THANKS FOR JOINING US. IT'S REALLY QUITE AN HONOR.

THANKS.

BEFORE WE BEGIN, LET'S RECAP THE PAST NINE YEARS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT **RECENTLY** HAPPENED.

"WHEN **J2** BEGAN ALLOWING CHRIS AND REBEKAH TO ATTEND A PUBLIC SCHOOL, VIEWERSHIP **TRIPLED** OVERNIGHT.

"BUT MANY WERE DISMAYED WHEN CHRIS **REFUSED** TO MAKE FRIENDS--THE YOUNG CLONE PREFERRED THE COMPANY OF HIS **BODYGUARD** OVER THAT OF OTHER CHILDREN.

"REBEKAH WAS THE **SOCIAL** ONE. HAVING SPENT TIME OFF THE ISLAND WITH HER MOTHER, SHE WASN'T AS INTIMIDATED BY OTHER CHILDREN AS CHRIS WAS.

"HIS ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR WASN'T THE **ONLY** CONCERN--MANY WERE PERTURBED BY HIS LOW TEST SCORES. WHEN CHILD WELFARE GROUPS STARTED ACCUSING **J2** OF EDUCATION NEGLECT, RICK SLATE SUGGESTED AN I.Q. TEST.

"CHRIS SCORED A **185.** CHRISTIANS REJOICED--JESUS WAS A **GENIUS.**

SO WHY WAS HE **TESTING** SO LOW? SOME BLAMED HIS MOTHER. SOME BLAMED THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. PSYCHOLOGISTS BLAMED HIS YEARS IN ISOLATION.

"SOME BLAMED **THOMAS McKAEL**--MAYBE HIS OVERPROTECTIVE DEMEANOR WAS CAUSING UNDUE STRESS."

"BUT DAISY MILTON AND THE NEW AMERICAN CHRISTIANS ***ENDORSED*** THE PUBLIC SCHOOLING AND CALLED A PROTESTOR'S 'CEASE-FIRE' AGAINST RICK SLATE AND ***J2.***

"SHE EVEN PROVIDED ARMED ***NAC*** PATROLS OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL TO HELP SAFEGUARD THEIR SAVIOR.

"MILTON, HOWEVER, NEVER COMMENTED ON RUMORS OF ***NAC TRAINING CAMPS*** ACROSS THE MIDWEST. SUSPICIONS OF A CHRISTIAN-EXTREMIST PLOT TO BUILD A ***'JESUS ARMY'*** FOR 'END TIMES' REMAINS A DEEP CONCERN.

"OF EVEN GREATER CONCERN ARE NEW ***ACCUSATIONS*** AGAINST RICK SLATE INVOLVING RACISM.

"THE CONTROVERSY STARTED A MONTH AGO WHEN CHRIS ASKED AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN GIRL TO THE FRESHMAN PROM.

"ACCORDING TO SOURCES, PRODUCER RICK SLATE RESPONDED TO THE INTERNET UPROAR BY PAYING THE GIRL'S FATHER TO ***DENY*** HER ADMITTANCE TO THE DANCE.

"MORE RUMORS SUGGESTED THAT HE SECRETLY ***BOUGHT*** CHRIS A NEW DATE--A CAUCASIAN FEMALE WHO WAS ALSO THE SCHOOL'S HEAD CHEERLEADER.

"SLATE TRIED TO ***DISPEL*** THE ACCUSATIONS, BUT REPORTERS WEREN'T BUYING IT. THAT'S WHEN HE AGREED TO LET CHRIS ONTO OUR SHOW, GRANTING US THIS ***HISTORIC*** INTERVIEW."

SO TELL ME, CHRIS-- IS THIS *ALL* TRUE?

...

...UH...

I'VE *WATCHED* YOU GROW UP, SON. I KNOW YOU'RE SHY.

BUT THE MEDIA CAN HELP YOU. IF SOMETHING HAPPENED, THEN YOU NEED TO TELL US.

I'M SORRY. I CAN'T DO THIS.

I'M...

YOU CAN LEAVE IN A MINUTE, CHRIS. JUST ANSWER DON'S QUESTION. IT'S ***IMPORTANT.***

LIVE

NONE OF IT'S TRUE. TAYLOR'S DAD WOULDN'T LET HER GO, SO I ASKED SANDY INSTEAD.

MR. SLATE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG. HE'S ALWAYS DONE HIS ***BEST*** TO LOOK OUT FOR ME AND MY MOM.

THAT'S ***BULLSHIT!*** TELL THE ***TRUTH,*** CHRIS! ***AAAAHHHHH!!***

LIVE

JUNE 19 2033

the Boiler Room with RON BAKER

9.10p PT

DON BAKER

EXIT

YOU OKAY?

HE'S FINE.

SIR, WE NEED TO GET BACK QUICKLY. THERE'S A ***PROBLEM*** WITH GWEN.

COME ON OUT, GWEN. YOU CAN'T ***HIDE*** FOREVER. DON'T MAKE ME HAVE COLA SNIFF YOU OUT AGAIN.

WE HAD A DEAL!

THE ***DEAL*** WAS THAT YOU WOULD COOPERATE.

YOU SAID YOU'D LEAVE CHRIS ***ALONE!***

I CAN'T DO THAT. HE'S WORTH A FORTUNE.

I WANT TO SEE MY SON! ***NOW!***

MOM?

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT SLATE INTERFERING WITH YOUR PROM? DID HE TELL YOU WHAT TO SAY DURING THE INTERVIEW?

DID HE ***THREATEN*** YOU?

UH...

DON'T LOOK AT HIM, LOOK AT ***ME!*** I'M YOUR MOTHER!

YES. HE TOLD ME TO DENY EVERYTHING, NO MATTER WHAT I HEARD DURING THE INTERVIEW. OR ELSE HE'D FIRE YOU FROM THE SHOW. I'M SORRY, MOM-- I ***LOVE*** YOU.

YOU CAN'T TAKE ME AWAY FROM MY SON! I'D ***NEVER*** LEAVE HIM.

MOM! PLEASE COME OUT. JUST, PLEASE--I'LL DO ***WHATEVER*** YOU WANT. WHERE ARE YOU?

I'M SO SORRY, CHRIS. THIS IS ALL MY FAULT. I MADE US ***BOTH*** PRISONERS WHEN I FIRST STEPPED ON THIS ISLAND.

I KNEW THIS WOULD HAP-PEN, AND I DID ***NOTHING.***

COME DOWN, GWEN. IT'S NOT SAFE UP THERE.

THOMAS, CAN YOU CATCH ME?

AYE.

JUMP

CATCH!

I'M SORRY. BUT HOPEFULLY YOU'LL UNDERSTAND. IF ONLY WE'D MET IN ANOTHER LIFE.

TAKE.

GET *BEHIND* ME, CHRIS!

I SHUT OFF THE CAMERAS FIVE MINUTES AGO, GWEN. NO ONE IS GOING TO SEE THIS.

GOOD.

AH! FUCKING BITCH!

BLAM!

PLEASE *DON'T,* THOMAS! DON'T MAKE ME DO IT.

GWEN--

IF YOU WANT TO HELP, THEN UNLOCK THE GATES!

COME ON, CHRIS. HURRY.

MOM, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS.

DON'T ARGUE WITH ME--I'M YOUR MOTHER.

THAT'S CLOSE ***ENOUGH.*** PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME SHOOT.

THIS ISN'T YOU, GWEN.

THIS IS HOW I ***SHOULD*** HAVE BEEN.

clack clack

IT'S STILL LOCKED.

OPEN THE ***GODDAMNED*** GATE, RICK!

I ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT YOU'RE ***NOT*** LEAVING.

STAND BACK! ***THOMAS,*** PLEASE...

NO!
GRAB!
YOU HAVE TO **HELP** US, THOMAS. WE CAN'T STAY HERE! I NEED YOUR HELP..
I CAN'T PROTECT YEH OUT THERE.
MOM, IT'LL BE OKAY.
OW!
NO IT WON'T. YOU'RE **FIRED,** GWEN.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
LET HER **BACK IN!**
YOU HAVE TO LET HER BACK IN! YOU **PROMISED!**

THOMAS, NO.

IT'S OKAY. THIS IS FOR THE BEST.

BUT GWEN--

I KNOW I ***NEED*** HELP. NOW I CAN GET IT. PROMISE ME YOU'LL LOOK AFTER CHRIS.

YOU CAN'T LEAVE.

I'LL BE BACK. IT'S YOUR JOB TO KEEP HIM ***SAFE.*** PUT UP WITH SLATE, WHATEVER IT TAKES FOR YOU TO BE WITH CHRIS. HE ***NEEDS*** YOU.

MOM, YOU CAN'T ***GO!*** WE BELONG HERE--YOU HAVE TO STAY WITH ME. WE CAN BE ***HAPPY*** HERE--IT'S BETTER IN HERE!

YOU DON'T KNOW THAT, CHRIS. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MISSING.

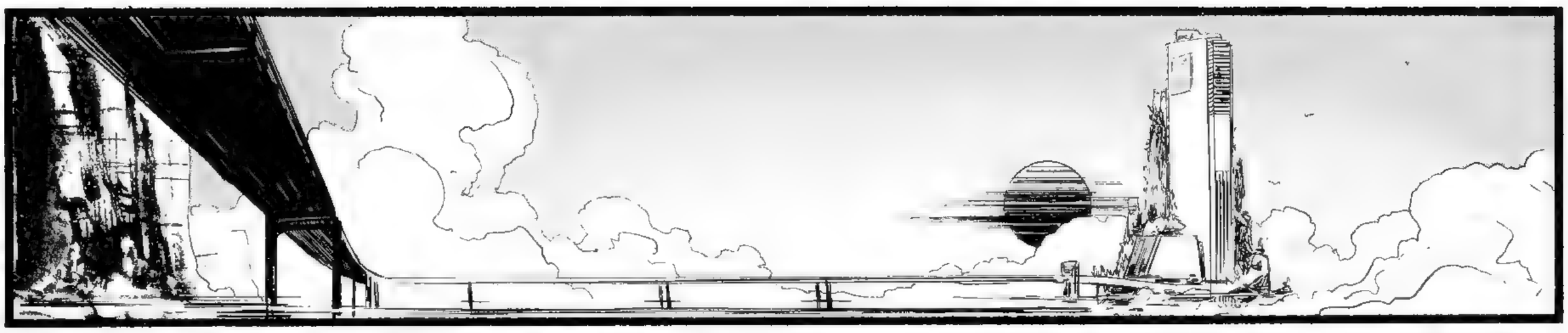
YOU ***CAN'T*** LEAVE!

TAKE HIM BACK INSIDE.

BACK OFF--I'LL TAKE CHRIS.

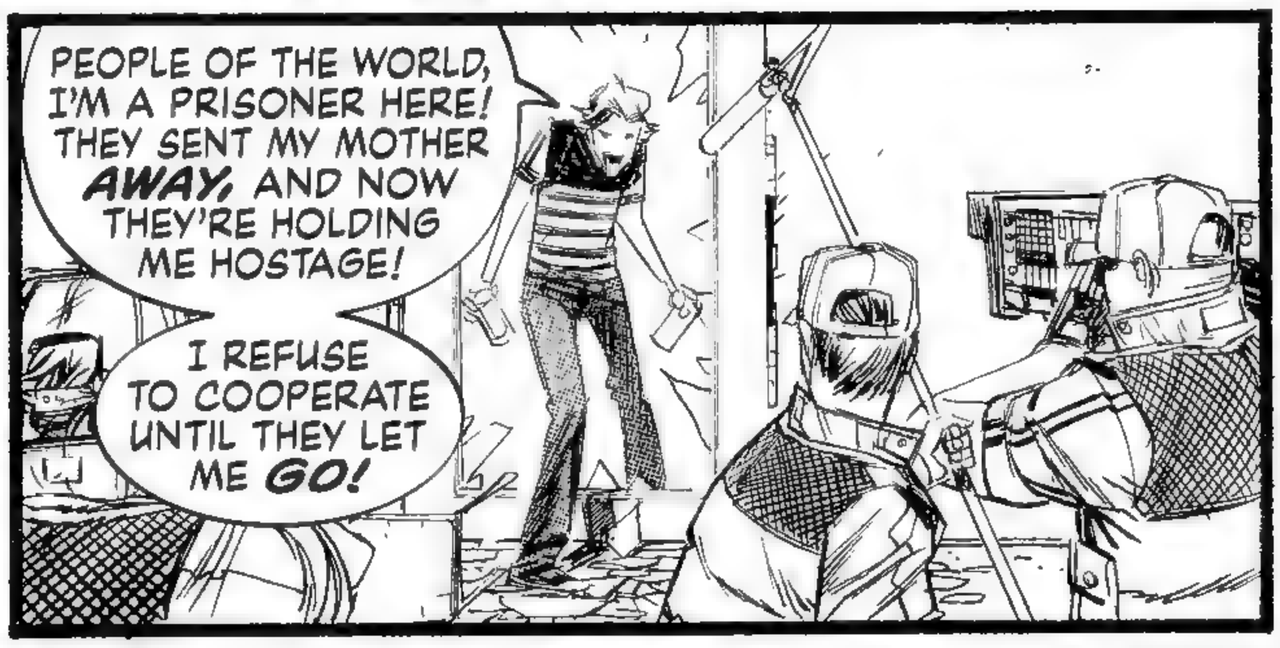
I'M TAKING GWEN TO THE HOSPITAL.

ARE YOU GOING TO PLAY NICE?



AAAAHH!

CRASH!


PEOPLE OF THE WORLD, I'M A PRISONER HERE! THEY SENT MY MOTHER AWAY, AND NOW THEY'RE HOLDING ME HOSTAGE!
I REFUSE TO COOPERATE UNTIL THEY LET ME GO!

SO UNTIL I GET MY MOTHER BACK...
TSSSSS!
TSSSSS!

TTTTSSSS

TSSSSSSSSSSS!

WHUD!

I'M A HOSTAGE

YER MOTHER LOVED THIS BIKE.

SHE AND I WENT OUT ON IT ONCE--CALLED IT A DATE. YEH WERE STILL A BABY THEN. SHE NEEDED TO LEAVE--SHE LOST SOMETHIN' ***IMPORTANT*** AND WANTED TO GO FIND IT, SO I WENT WITH HER.

TRIED TO ***HELP*** HER, BUT SHE DIDN'T FIND WHAT SHE WAS LOOKIN' FER.

HAD A GREAT TIME--EVEN THOUGH IT RAINED. WE GOT IN A BIT OF ***TROUBLE,*** BUT IT WAS WORTH IT.

LET IT OUT, LAD. I MISS HER, TOO.

WHAT'S THE POINT OF THIS ANYMORE? WHO ***AM*** I WITHOUT MY MOTHER?

San Franci
Behavio
Health Center
Counseling & Community Servs.

CATCH!

San Francisco
BEH-AVIORAL
Health Center, Inc

Wud!

WHAT KIND OF FUCKING MOTHER ***ARE*** YOU?!

click

AFTER YOU WERE FIRED FROM **J2**, YOU SAY THAT YOU WERE SAVED BY AN ANGEL, GWEN. TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT THAT.

AS WE ALL KNOW, **J2** REALLY ***MESSED*** ME UP. SEVERE DEPRESSION, ALCOHOL ADDICTION--I WAS EVEN SUICIDAL. I THREW MYSELF OFF THE BALCONY OF A HOSPITAL WHERE I WAS BEING TREATED.

I JUST WANTED THE PAIN TO STOP.

AND THEN WHAT HAPPENED?

THEN AN ANGEL CAME OUT OF THE SKY, GRABBED ME BY THE ARMS, AND FLEW ME BACK TO MY HOSPITAL BED.

AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT WAS A DREAM--BUT THEN I NOTICED TWO LARGE HAND-SHAPED BRUISES ON MY ARMS FROM WHERE THE ANGEL CAUGHT ME.

THAT'S WHEN I TURNED IT ALL AROUND--THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED THAT GOD HAD A ***PLAN*** FOR ME.

THERE'S NO MEDICAL RECORD OF THE BRUISES. AND THE DOCTORS ***INSIST*** THAT THE BALCONY DOORS IN THE HOSPITAL CAN'T BE OPENED BY PATIENTS.

SAVIOR WITHOUT A MOTHER

I ***KNOW*** WHAT I SAW, DON. IT'S ALL IN THE BOOK.

SAVIOR WITHOUT A MOTHER, THE *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER THAT TOPPED THE CHARTS LAST WEEK. WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO WRITE THIS BOOK?

I'VE SEEN BEHIND THE CURTAIN AT **J2.** AND IF I DON'T SPEAK UP, THEN **RICK SLATE** WILL WIN. IT'S MY CHRISTIAN DUTY TO LET THE WORLD KNOW THAT ITS SAVIOR IS BEING HELD PRISONER.

MY FRIENDS, THE **NEW AMERICAN CHRISTIANS,** HAVE HELPED ME SEE THAT.

THEY ALSO HELPED FUND YOUR BOOK AND BOUGHT THOUSANDS OF COPIES TO **ENSURE** YOUR RANK ON THE BESTSELLER LIST!

ISN'T IT STRANGE THAT A WOMAN LIKE DAISY MILTON, LEADER OF THE **NAC,** IS NOW **SUPPORTING** YOU AFTER YEARS OF **CONDEMNING** YOU?

THE LORD WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS.

AND WHAT DO YOU AND THE **NAC** PLAN ON DOING WITH THE SUBSTANTIAL PROFITS FROM THE BOOK? FILE A LAWSUIT AGAINST OPHIS?

THE GOVERNMENT AND LEGAL SYSTEMS ARE **BROKEN,** DON...

...SO I'M NOT GOING TO PLAY BY THE **RULES** ANYMORE.

INCURSION TEAM OF SIX. FOUR OF THEM LOOK LIKE EX-SPECIAL FORCES. ARMED MOSTLY WITH TRANQUILIZER GUNS. GWEN IS 'ERE TOO, ALONG WITH THAT WOMAN FROM THE **NAC.**

YOU NEED HELP?

NEGATIVE-- HOLD POSITION AROUND CHRIS.

ARGH!

KRUNCH!

WUD!

THOMAS!

GWEN, GET DOWN!

DON'T SHOOT! THOMAS IS A FRIEND!

NONE OF THEM ARE YOUR FRIENDS!

KICK!

STAY HERE, SOLDIER! GWEN AND I ARE GOING AHEAD!

NEGATIVE! WE NEED TO ABORT! WE NEED--

FUCK THESE FAGGOT TRANQUILIZER RIFLES...

COME ON, YOU MICK-CUNT! I'VE BEEN WATCHING THIS SHOW FOR YEARS. I'VE STUDIED YOUR MOVES.

AHH!

THUK.
THUK.
THUK.

YOU'RE A LOT TOUGHER ON TV.

WHUDD!

THWIP!

THUK!

YOUR GIRLFRIEND DIDN'T WANT ANY-ONE HURT ON THIS MISSION--'SPECIALLY ***YOU.*** BUT SEEING AS YOU DREW FIRST BLOOD...

ROAR!

AHHHH! WHAT THE FUCK?!

THUK!
THUK!
THUK!

ROAR!

GOOD BEAR, COLA.

Z Z Z Z Z Z Z

I'LL SEND HELP.

WHICH WAY, GWEN?

TO THE RIGHT, THEN DOWN THE STAIRS!

COVER YOUR EARS, GWEN. JUST LIKE WE PRACTICED!

FWASH!

SECURITY CAM

DAMN, THAT FAT BITCH CAN MOVE.

GET READY, THEY'RE APPROACH-ING!

NET GUNS ARE READY.

WHATEVER HAPPENS, MAKE SURE THE ***KIDS*** ARE SAFE.

MOM...!

SWOOSH!
SWOOSH!
THERE HE IS! I CAN *SEE* HIM!
NOT SO FAST, SWEETHEART. *SOMETHING'S* NOT RIGHT! IT'S TOO EASY.
SHUT DOORS EXECUTED
WHY DID THAT DOOR OPEN? WHAT HAPPENED?
SOME-THING'S GONE WRONG.
I CAN MAKE IT!
NO! STAY *BACK*, GWEN!
THE CAMERAS HAVE SHUT DOWN!
CHRIS! I'M HERE!
MY GUN WON'T FIRE!
MINE EITHER!
CHRIS!!
KRUNCH!

CRACK
snap
KRUNCH!
MOM! OPEN THE DOOR, SHE'S BLEEDING!
...CHRIS...
SOMEONE GET THE DOCTOR!
pop.
pop.
INCREASE CLOSING P
OPEN THE DOOR, MAN! WHAT THE FUCK IS HAPPENING?
INCREASE CLOSING PRESSU
MOM! MOM, TELL ME WHAT TO DO!
...CHRIS...
...LOVE YOU...
...SAW ANGEL... FORGIVE ME...
pop.
pop.
CRACK!

SOMEONE GET THE DOCTOR! WE CAN ***STILL*** SAVE HER!

GWEN!

NO! MAYBE I CAN ***HEAL*** HER! I CAN BRING HER BACK TO LIFE-- LIKE ***JESUS*** DID!

WHERE'S MILTON? DID SHE RUN OFF? GO ***FIND*** HER!

SORRY, THOMAS--THE DOOR MAL-FUNCTIONED. NOTHING WE COULD DO.

GWEN!

Glirk.

LIAR.

MOM! ***WAKE UP,*** PLEASE! YOU NEED TO COME BACK!

:AKK:

REBEKAH, TAKE CHRIS AWAY.

COME ON, CHRIS.

WHUD!

NO PULSE.

SHE'S GONE.

UGGH...

CRICK

THOMAS?

ADMIT WHAT YOU DID.

THOMAS, PUT HIM DOWN. YOU DON'T WANT TO KILL HIM.

SAY IT.

...

THOMAS!

drop.

:GASP!:

SAY IT.

YOU'RE *FIRED.*

TIM, HACK THE SECURITY AND PULL THE VIDEO RECORDS. SOMEONE CALL THE POLICE.

THOMAS, ***LISTEN*** TO ME.

YOU SAW WHAT HE DID--HE'S NOT GETTING AWAY WITH THIS. I'LL ***KILL*** HIM FIRST.

I CAN'T HACK THE SYSTEM. SLATE CONTROLS EVERYTHING. THERE ***IS*** NO EVIDENCE--HE SHUT DOWN THE CAMERAS AS WELL.

BUT GWEN--

I KNOW! WE'LL ***GET*** HIM, I PROMISE. BUT YOU ***NEED*** TO LEAVE!

I'LL STAY HERE WITH CHRIS AND SEE WHAT I CAN FIND.

WE'LL GET HIM. BUT WE HAVE TO BE *SMART.*

skip.
skip.
skip.

CHRIS, YOU'VE BEEN DOING THAT FOR HOURS.

YEP.

TIM, I NEED BETTER WORK-OUT MUSIC. SLATE ONLY LETS ME DOWNLOAD CHRISTIAN ROCK AND CLASSICAL MUSIC.

GO LOOK THROUGH THOMAS' OLD STUFF--THINK HE LEFT SOME PUNK RECORDS IN HIS ROOM.

WHAT'S "PUNK"?

JESUS WAS A TERRORIST BY THE DEAD KENNEDYS. HMM...

skip.
skip.
skip.

CAN I BORROW SOME BOOKS? I'M TIRED OF READING THE BIBLE.

TRY DARWIN.

skip.
skip.
skip.

CDs WOULD SET OFF THE METAL DETECTORS, SO I BROUGHT YOU VINYL INSTEAD.

PERFECT. CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE BOOKS, TOO.

skip.
skip.
skip.

WHAT'S HE TRAINING FOR?

EXERCISE IS HIS WAY OF COPING WITH GWEN'S DEATH. LEAVE HIM ALONE.

HAVE YOU SEEN ALL THE STUFF HE'S COLLECTED?

"THE FLAK JACKETS"?

THEY'RE ONE OF THE LAST PUNK BANDS. AND THEY'RE *REALLY* GOOD.

WE'RE THROWING THIS STUFF OUT.

SKIP.
SKIP.
SKIP.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS WILL WORK?

TIM TOLD ME HOW TO HOTWIRE THE SYSTEM.

DONE!

NOW LET'S TRY LOOKING AT HOLOGRAPHIC HISTORY *WITHOUT* SLATE'S FILTERS.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH SENTENCED GALILEO TO HOUSE ARREST FOR INSISTING THE EARTH WAS ***NOT*** AT THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE.

WHAT A BUNCH OF DICKS.

IT SAYS HERE THAT OUR FOREFATHERS BELIEVED IN THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE. THEY WERE ***SECULAR THINKERS,*** MANY OF THEM AGNOSTICS.

JEFFERSON RIPPED PAGES OUT OF HIS OWN BIBLE. AND AS LINCOLN ONCE SAID...

MY EARLIER VIEWS OF THE UNSOUNDNESS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHEME OF SALVATION AND THE HUMAN ORIGIN OF THE SCRIPTURES HAVE BECOME CLEARER AND STRONGER WITH ADVANCING YEARS, AND I SEE NO REASON FOR THINKING I SHALL EVER CHANGE THEM.

IT SAYS HERE THAT DARWIN PROVED THAT SPECIES EVOLVE ORGANICALLY OVER TIME VIA ***NATURAL SELECTION.*** BUT CREATIONISTS DON'T ACCEPT IT.

DAISY MILTON AND THE ***NAC*** ARE CREATIONISTS.

IT SAYS HERE THAT MOST NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS ARE ***AGNOSTICS*** AND ***ATHEISTS,*** EINSTEIN AND HAWKING INCLUDED. SO WAS CARL SAGAN, THE GREAT POPULARIZER OF SCIENCE IN THE '80s AND '90s.

SAGAN WAS AWESOME!

CHRISTIANITY BECAME A POLITICAL CAUSE IN THE 1980S UNDER RONALD REAGAN.

MANY WHO VOTED FOR GEORGE W. BUSH ***ONLY*** DID SO BECAUSE HE WAS A CHRISTIAN. BUSH CLAIMED THAT GOD TOLD HIM TO "END THE TYRANNY IN IRAQ."

I'VE GOT TO GET ***OUT*** OF HERE.

HOW?

MAY 12 2035

the Boiler Room with DON BAKER

77th ANNUAL GRAMMY AWARDS

LIVE

GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE. WE'RE MINUTES AWAY FROM THE 77TH ANNUAL GRAMMY AWARD SHOW. NORMALLY PEOPLE WOULD BE TUNING IN FOR THE ***MUSIC,*** BUT THAT'S LIKELY TO BE OVERSHADOWED BY THIS YEAR'S HOST...

SORRY I'M LATE--TOOK ME A WHILE TO FIND ALL THIS STUFF.

HURRY.

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH YOUR ***HAIR?***

NO, I'LL DO IT MYSELF. JUST WATCH THE DOOR AND MAKE SURE SLATE DOESN'T COME BY.

DUMP!

BZZZZZ ZZZZ ZZ

AND NOW THE ***HOST*** OF THE SHOW--AMERICA'S ***LITTLE PRINCE,*** THE BOY NEXT DOOR, THE ***SAVIOR*** HIMSELF!

J2 LIVE

GIVE IT UP FOR *JESUS CHRIST!*

DO NOT ENTE

YEAH!

I *BELIEVE* IN YOU!

PRAY FOR US, CHRIS!

THANK YOU! THANKS A LOT, EVERYONE!

WHAT? NO MORE ***APPLAUSE?*** SOMETHING ***WRONG?*** OR AM I NOT THE JESUS YOU ***EXPECTED?***

WELL, SORRY TO ***FUCKING*** DISAPPOINT YOU, BUT ***I AM NOT JESUS CHRIST!***

RELIGION IS DANGEROUS--IT IMPEDES HUMAN PROGRESS LIKE A VIRUS. IT'S A ***GLOBAL OPIATE*** FOR THE MASSES, IT NUMBS US WITH FEEL-GOOD MAGICAL THINK-ING AND INFLATES OUR EGOS.

TWO BILLION PEOPLE STARVE EACH DAY WHILE AMERICA HOARDS GLOBAL RESOURCES FOR OBSCENE OVERCONSUMPTION. WE'RE ***GORGING*** ON OIL, FAST FOOD, AND ***ENTERTAINMENT*** WHILE WE REMAIN ISOLATED FROM THE ***TRUE COST*** OF OUR HABITS.

AND ***I'M*** THE EMBODIMENT OF IT! IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE YOU CREATED ME, ***WASN'T IT?***

FOR FOURTEEN YEARS YOU'VE BORNE WITNESS AS RICK SLATE FUCKED WITH EVERY ASPECT OF MY LIFE, ALL FOR YOUR ***PERSONAL*** ENTERTAINMENT. AND WHEN THAT WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH, WHAT DID HE DO?

HE ***KILLED*** MY ***MOM.***

GRAB.

SOMETIMES I ***WISH*** I WAS JESUS CHRIST, AND THAT THIS WAS THE SECOND COMING. THEN I COULD TAKE YOU ALL TO HELL!

SMASH!

CHRIS! HOLD ON, MAN!

DAMN, THAT KID IS FAST.

HE'S GOING INTO THE LAUNDRY CHUTE!

TIM, YOU THINK YOU CAN SQUEEZE INSIDE?

YEAH, YEAH, SEND THE SKINNY BLACK GUY.

WHUD

WHUD!

KEEP RUNNING, CHRIS. PLEASE DON'T LET US CATCH YOU.

...THEN RAN OFFSTAGE TO FLEE SECURITY. RICK SLATE CLAIMS TO HAVE FOUND CHRIS AND BROUGHT HIM BACK TO **J2,** BUT POLICE BECAME SUSPICIOUS WHEN SLATE ***REFUSED*** TO ALLOW DETECTIVES TO VERIFY THIS CLAIM.

MEANWHILE, THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IS IN COMPLETE ***UPROAR*** OVER THE COMMENTS MADE BY--

The Boiler Room with BOM BAKER LIVE

REBEKAH?

REBEKAH?

I'M HERE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT...

HELPING A FRIEND.

VROOM

"ALL RIGHT, BOY. LET ME TELL YOU A BIT ABOUT THE ***IRA.***

"THE IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY IS THE LONGEST RUNNING TERRORIST GROUP IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

"IT DRAWS SUPPORT FROM IRISH CATHOLICS IN IRELAND, NEW YORK CITY AND BOSTON WHERE MANY OF THE IMMIGRANTS EMPATHIZE WITH ***THE CAUSE***--UNITING THE ISLAND OF IRELAND BY FORCING ENGLAND OUT.

VROOO...

"HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO, IRELAND WAS RULED BY FIERCE TRIBES.

NO ONE DARED TO ATTACK. EVEN THE ROMANS, WHO CONTROLLED MOST OF THE KNOWN WORLD, LEFT OUR LAND ALONE AFTER THEY CONQUERED ENGLAND.

"BUT EVENTUALLY IT WAS CONQUERED BY THE BRITISH. RICH PROTESTANTS SETTLED IN THE NORTH, AND FOR GENERATIONS KEPT OUR COUNTRYMEN DOWN BY TREATING THEM LIKE SECOND-CLASS CITIZENS.

THEY EVEN TOOK OUR CROPS AND LET THE PEOPLE STARVE TO DEATH. BELFAST AND THE SURROUNDING COUNTIES WERE HIT THE HARDEST.

"IN WORLD WAR ONE, THOUSANDS OF IRISHMEN WERE FORCED TO FIGHT FOR ENGLAND. AFTER THE WAR, A FEW OF THE SOLDIERS DECIDED TO USE THEIR TRAINING TO START THEIR OWN WAR AGAINST ENGLAND'S OCCUPYING POLICE FORCE, THE ***RUC***--THE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY.

"EVENTUALLY THEY FORCED THE BRITISH TO ALLOW SOUTHERN IRELAND TO BECOME AN INDEPENDENT STATE. BUT IN ULSTER, THE NINE NORTHERN COUNTIES OF IRELAND, THE WAR GOES ON.

BOUNCE

BOUNCE

BOUNCE

"THIS IS ***YOUR*** WAR, THOMAS."

IRRRT!

SHOOM!

BOOM!

WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER, ALL WE HAD WAS WORLD WAR TWO SMALL ARMS LIKE MP40s, THOMPSON MACHINE GUNS AND WEBLEY REVOLVERS.

NOW WE SMUGGLE IN BROWNINGS, SMITH AND WESSONS, AR-18s, GLOCKS, BERETTAS, RPGs, SMGs, HMGs AND ROCKET LAUNCHERS FROM AMERICA AND LIBYA.

EACH ***IRA*** BRIGADE IS BROKEN UP INTO ***ASU***s--ACTIVE SERVICE UNITS. MY CREW HAS FIVE MEN--THE LEADER, THE QUARTERMASTER, THE DRIVER, AND TWO SHOOTERS.

WHEN YOU GET BIG ENOUGH, I'LL MAKE YOU A SHOOTER.

"FINDING THE PROPER SPACE TO TRAIN WITH EXPLOSIVES IS DIFFICULT IN IRELAND, SO YOU'LL BE SENT TO ***LIBYA*** TWICE A YEAR TO TRAIN IN THE DESERT."

"WHATEVER HAPPENS TO YOU, YOU NEED TO BE VIGILANT. TRAIN YOURSELF TO THINK LIKE A SOLDIER.

"AND DON'T FORGET WHAT ***THE CAUSE*** IS REALLY ALL ABOUT.

"IT WAS YOUR FATHER'S LIFE, AND NOW IT'S YOURS.

"GOD BE WITH YOU."

THOMAS! GET YER MAN 'ERE A BEAMISH, WOULD YOU, EAMON?

CHURCH? YOU GO EVERY DAY, DON'T YOU, THOM?

NEVER SEE YOU THERE.

MY CHURCH IS OUT THERE ON THE ***STREET*** WHERE THE DEVILS ROAM.

HOW CAN YOU DRINK THAT SHIT? BEAMISH, MURPHY'S, GUINNESS--IT ALL MAKES MY PISS DARK.

YOUR SISTER LIKES DARK PISS-- ***ON HER FACE!***

HA, HA. YER AN ASSHOLE, MAN.

BRATTA BRATTA BRATTA

JESUS, FUCK! EAMON!

GET OUTSIDE AND SEE WHO THAT WAS.

PRODDIE PIECES OF SHIT.

I RECOGNIZE THAT VAN--BELONGS TO THE BOYS AT OLDE HENRY'S.

ROYALIST PRICKS.

THE FUCK ARE YOU GOING?

WE'LL ***LOSE*** THE TRUCK.

AYE, BUT WE NEED TO ARM OURSELVES FIRST. HAVE SULLY THINK OF A PLAN.

VROOM!

SULLY, THOMAS IS OFF TO BE A ***HERO*** OR SOMETHING.

ARE YOU LOST, SPUD?

TRY AND FUCK WITH AN OFF-DUTY ***RUC*** AND WATCH WHAT HAPPENS, BOY.

TAKE!

BLAM!

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

click

SMASH!

CATCH.

BOOM!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

CHRIST.

CHRIST. THE FUCK IS WRONG WITH YEH? GOIN' OFF ALONE...

I GOT TWELVE. MAYBE THIRTEEN.

GET IN THE CAR.

NO. MY FATHER'S BIKE. I NEED IT.

I'LL MEET UP WITH YOU LATER.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

HOW MANY CROSSES?

2DOTTAT

"ONE FOR EACH VICTIM."

FLOOD ZONE 4

TONIGHT:
The Flak Jackets
AUDITIONS FOR NEW LEAD SINGER

ALL RIGHT, NEW YORK-- THANK YOU! THANKS, EVERY-ONE!

AS YOU MIGHT HAVE HEARD, OUR LEAD SINGER QUIT RECENTLY--JOINED THE NAC. DECIDED THAT PUNK ROCK WASN'T VERY CHRISTIAN.

BOO!

DESTROY HIM! FUCK QUITTERS!

FUNDAMENTALIST DOUCHE-BAGS!

SO WE'RE LOOKING FOR A NEW FRONT MAN! LET THE TRY-OUTS BEGIN!

WHO'S UP FIRST? HOPEFULLY SOMEONE WHO WON'T LEAVE US FOR JESUS.

JESUS CHRIST, YOU MEAN?

I FUCKING HATE THAT GUY.

the Boiler Room with DON BAKER

LIVE

JESUS CHRIST HAS SURFACED IN NEW YORK! AND TO THE *HORROR* OF MANY CHRISTIANS AND THE *NAC*, HE'S BECOME THE NEW *LEAD SINGER* FOR A PUNK BAND CALLED *THE FLAK JACKETS*.

APPARENTLY RICK SLATE HAS BEEN *LYING* TO REPORTERS. PULLING THE PLUG ON THE *J2* PROJECT WASN'T DONE "TO GET CHRIS THE HELP THAT HE NEEDS." IT WAS PULLED BECAUSE *J2* LOST TRACK OF ITS *STAR!*

WE NOW GO TO OUR FIELD REPORTER TO GET THE LATEST DETAILS.

THANKS, DON. I'M HERE IN LOWER MANHATTAN, JUST ABOVE THE FLOOD ZONE IN THE WEST VILLAGE. NORMALLY THESE STREETS ARE EMPTY DUE TO THE THREAT OF RISING WATER LEVELS, BUT THAT HASN'T STOPPED *THIS* CROWD.

THE BAND'S NAME IS *THE FLAK JACKETS*--ONE OF THE ONLY *REMAINING* PUNK BANDS IN EXISTENCE. AND WHILE VERY FEW PEOPLE LISTEN TO THIS OUTDATED FORM OF MUSIC, THE ONES THAT DO PRIMARILY INHABIT *NYC* FLOOD ZONES.

IT'S NO SURPRISE THAT THE APPEARANCE OF JESUS CHRIST HAS GATHERED AN ENTIRE PUNK *ARMY.*

IF YOU'LL BEAR WITH ME, I'LL TRY TO GET TO THE STAGE FOR AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW.

HOLD ON! STOP THE MUSIC! WHAT'S THIS?

WOW, I'VE NEVER HAD A CAMERA IN MY FACE BEFORE!

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR "***THE SCOOP***"? SOME SORT OF EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW THAT YOU'LL USE TO BOOST RATINGS IN ORDER TO ***BLEED*** MORE MONEY FROM ADVERTISERS? IS THAT WHY YOU'RE HERE?

IT MUST BE, BECAUSE I'M PRETTY FUCKING ***SURE*** YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT PUNK ROCK. NOT WITH THAT NICE CLEAN SUIT AND THOSE DESIGNER SHOES.

I'M CATHY--

YEAH, YEAH-- YOU'RE CATHY THE REPORTER AND YOU WANT A ***STATEMENT.*** I KNOW HOW IT WORKS.

DON BAKER

BUT YOU GOTTA UNDERSTAND, CATHY THE REPORTER, THAT IF I TALK TO ***YOU,*** I'LL HAVE TO TALK TO THE ***OTHER*** ASSHOLE REPORTERS WAITING FOR THEIR OWN ***EXCLUSIVE*** INTERVIEWS.

IT MAKES A LOT MORE SENSE TO USE MY ***OWN*** MICROPHONE AND SPEAK LOUD ENOUGH SO THAT ***EVERYONE*** CAN HEAR ME!

HMM-- STATEMENT. WHAT DO I WANT TO SAY. I KNOW!

HELLO, AMERICA! THE MOST CHRISTIAN NATION ON EARTH! THE ONE THAT GOD HAS BLESSED! THIS IS ***JESUS CHRIST,*** COMING TO YOU LIVE FROM LOWER MANHATTAN, TELLING YOU ALL...

GO **FUCK** YOURSELF! JESUS **HATES** YOU!

THE FLAK JACKETS

ATTACK!

THE FLAK

THAT'S RIGHT, DON--CHRIS HAS ORDERED THE CROWD TO ***TURN*** ON THE REPORTERS!

IT'S COMPLETE ***CHAOS***--I'VE NEVER SEEN ***ANYTHING*** LIKE IT.

DON

WHERE ARE THE POLICE?

THERE ***ARE*** NO POLICE, DON! LOWER MANHATTAN HAS BEEN ABANDONED DUE TO ***FLOODING,*** SAVE FOR THIS LARGE COMMUNITY OF ***SQUATTERS*** AND ***PUNK ROCK YOUTHS.***

LIVE

THE ONLY FORM OF AUTHORITY IS THE COAST GUARD, AND THEY'RE BUSY MAINTAINING THE ***LEVEES!***

HOLD ON--WE'RE HAVING TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES--

LET GO OF THAT!

WHAT THE FUCK IS THIS? YOU'RE DESTROYING THE CLUB?

SECURITY

IT'S AN EXPRESSION OF TEEN ANGST, MOTHER-FUCKER! IT'S ***OUR*** CLUB NOW!

GRAB THEM!

UNPLUG THOSE SPEAKERS! I WANT THEM ALL BACK-STAGE--***NOW!***

WHEN I AGREED TO LET YOU PLAY HERE, I ASSUMED YOU WOULDN'T START ***DESTROYING*** THE PLACE.

WHAT ARE WE, FUCKING ***HOSTAGES?*** THOSE REPORTERS HAD IT COMING!

AND YOU--WHAT THE FUCK ARE ***YOU*** DOING HERE? SHOULDN'T YOU BE HELPING THE SICK OR SOMETHING?

I KNOW OUR RIGHTS--YOU CAN'T HOLD US HERE.

WHERE THE FUCK DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, KID? IN THE ***LAKE*** KNOWN AS LOWER MANHATTAN, THERE ARE NO RIGHTS.

THE THREE OF YOU CAN LEAVE, BUT THE CLONE STAYS HERE UNTIL ***J2 REIMBURSES*** ME FOR THE DAMAGES.

FUCK YOU. I'M NOT LEAVING HIM--HE'S ONE OF ***US*** NOW.

AND THIS PLACE IS SURROUNDED BY ***FLAK JACKET*** FANS.

knock knock knock

WHO'S THERE? I THOUGHT WE BLOCKED OFF THE ALLEYWAY ENTRANCE.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THIS.

FUCK, YEAH! YOU GUYS ARE SO ***DEAD.***

CAN YOU SIGN MY GUITAR?

THOMAS?

ARE YOU OKAY, CHRIS?

HE'S FINE. AND YOU CAN TAKE HIM WITH YOU AFTER ***J2*** PAYS ME FOR THE DAMAGES. ONE MILLION SHOULD DO IT.

COME ON, CHRIS. WE'RE LEAVING.

I'M NOT LEAVING WITHOUT THE BAND.

YOU'RE NOT LEAVING, ***PERIOD.*** NOT WITHOUT A MILLION FROM ***J2.***

WE'RE GOING BACK HOME-- IT'S TOO DANGEROUS HERE.

AFTER WHAT HAPPENED AT ***J2?*** HE'S SAFER WITH ***US!***

DUDE, WILL YOU PLEASE HURRY UP AND KICK ALL THEIR ASSES?!

I'VE GOT FIVE MEN HERE--YOU'VE GOT FOUR SKINNY TEEN-AGERS. HOW THE FUCK DO YOU EXPECT TO GET OUT OF HERE?

YOU'VE ALL WATCHED ***J2.*** YOU KNOW WHAT I CAN DO.

SECURITY

YEH GONNA TRY AND STOP ME?

SECURITY

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.

SECURITY

HOW DID YOU FIND ME SO FAST?

REBEKAH CONTACTED ME-- SHE FIGURED OUT WHERE YOU WERE HEADED.

SHE'S ***WORRIED*** ABOUT YOU.

HOW DID YOU ***MANAGE*** TO GET YOUR BIKE THROUGH THE FLOODED STREETS?

BECAUSE HE'S FUCKING ***AWESOME,*** THAT'S HOW!

KEEP HIM AWAY FROM ME.

CHRIS-- I'M NOT SAYING IT AGAIN.

SLATE ***KILLED*** MY MOTHER! THAT WASN'T A ***COMPUTER MALFUNCTION***--HE DID IT ON PURPOSE AND YOU ***KNOW*** IT! IF YOU'RE COMMITTED TO KEEPING ME SAFE, HOW CAN YOU ASK ME TO GO BACK ***THERE?***

YOU'LL BE ***KILLED*** OUT HERE.

SLATE NEEDS TO ANSWER FOR WHAT HE'S DONE, AND I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN GET THE TRUTH.

THERE ARE LOTS OF FLAK JACKET FANS WHO WON'T LET ***ANYONE*** FUCK WITH HIM.

STAY WITH US, THOMAS. WE'LL GO ON TOUR AND YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF ***SECURITY***--DO WHAT YOU DO BEST.

WILL THAT SATISFY YOUR CATHOLIC ***BAGGAGE*** AND YOUR STUPID ***VOW?***

THE ***NAC*** IS GOING TO COME AT YOU HARD. YOU'RE GOING TO START A ***WAR.***

THEN IT'S A GOOD THING WE HAVE AN ***ARMY.***

I LIKE WHERE THIS IS GOING.

GET ON THE BIKE--WE'RE LEAVING.

YOU'RE ***SURROUNDED.*** YOU COULDN'T FORCE ME TO LEAVE EVEN IF YOU WANTED.

WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE?

AND YOU'RE NOT ABOUT TO BRAWL WITH A HUNDRED ***INNOCENT TEENAGERS***--I KNOW YOU TOO WELL.

PLEASE--STAY. HELP US.

MY MOM ASKED YOU TO PROTECT ME. AND SHE WOULDN'T WANT ME BACK AT ***J2.***

FINE, BUT I MAKE ALL SECURITY DECISIONS AND THAT'S ***FINAL.*** GIVE ME A MONTH TO PLAN--WE'LL NEED EXTRA SECURITY AND REINFORCED TRANSPORTATION.

AND WE BRING ***TIM*** ON BOARD AS WELL.

ONE MONTH. JUST ENOUGH TO MAKE A NEW RECORD.

THIS DUDE IS ***AWESOME!*** CAN YOU GET SOMEONE ELSE TO PLAY BASS SO I CAN HANG OUT WITH THOMAS?

THIS SOUNDS ***DANGEROUS.*** WHAT DO YOU THINK, HENNY?

I THINK IT'S A BAD IDEA.

DUDE, IT'S A GREAT IDEA! IF THIS ISN'T ***PUNK ROCK,*** THEN ***NOTHING*** IS!

THE FLAK JACKETS

THE FLAK JACKETS

WPRJ

CENTRAL PARK

THE FLAK JACKETS

THE FLAK JACKETS, ONE OF THE LAST REMAINING PUNK BANDS FROM THE FLOODED ISLAND OF MANHATTAN, HAVE BECOME A **WORLDWIDE** PHENOMENON WITH THEIR NEW LEAD SINGER, **JESUS CHRIST.**

PERHAPS THE MOST COLORFUL OF THE GROUP, **"TAPE"** IS THEIR BASS GUITARIST, A HALF-ASIAN RUNAWAY FROM SAN FRANCISCO WITH A NAME CERTAINLY DERIVED FROM THE MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF WHITE TAPE ON HIS FINGERS.

NEXT UP IS A GIRL NAMED **"RABBIT"** ON LEAD GUITAR--A NICKNAME SHE EMBRACED AFTER A CHILDHOOD OF BEING TEASED FOR THE GAP BETWEEN HER FRONT TEETH. HOW MUCH DOES SHE EMBRACE THE NICKNAME? SHE WENT SO FAR AS TO TATTOO **WHISKERS** ON HER FACE.

AND FINALLY THERE'S THE MYSTERIOUS **"HENNY,"** THE QUIET DRUMMER AND BRONX NATIVE. NO ONE KNOWS EXACTLY WHY HE'S CALLED HENNY, BUT WE'VE HEARD RUMORS HE'S KNOWN AS "THE JIMI HENDRIX OF DRUMMING."

ZILJIN

WHILE MOST MODERN BANDS ARE STILL OWNED AND OPERATED BY A HANDFUL OF LABELS, THE FLAK JACKETS ARE COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT, AND HAVE LAUNCHED A SUCCESSFUL AMERICAN TOUR BASED OFF THEIR LATEST ALBUM, ***AMERICAN NIGHTMARE.***

THE FLAK JACKETS

AMERICAN NIGHTMARE

THE RECORD INCLUDES SUCH SONGS AS *YOUR FICTIONAL FOREFATHERS, THE CHURCH OF THE WHITE HOUSE, REPUBLICAN NONSENSE* AND *SCIENCE WILL SAVE US (CUZ THERE'S NO MAN IN THE SKY).*

the Boiler Room with **BON BAKER**

LIVE

WHILE DIVISIVE TO MOST AMERICANS, THE ANTI-RELIGIOUS MUSIC OF THE FLAK JACKETS SPEAKS TO A ***GROWING*** MOVEMENT OF ***SECULARISM*** THAT'S DEVELOPED IN RESPONSE TO THE DECADES-LONG REIGN OF CHRISTIAN FUNDAMENTALISM.

THE BAND ALSO HAS HUGE SUPPORT FROM THE ***SCIENTIFIC*** COMMUNITY. ***DR. CARL CLARK*** MADE THIS COMMENT AFTER LAST WEEK'S PERFORMANCE AT ***MIT.***

WHILE I'M NOT A FAN OF PUNK ROCK MUSIC, ***CHRIS'S*** ANTI-THEIST LYRICS ARE INCREDIBLY WELL-WRITTEN AND EXTREMELY MOVING--CLEARLY THE PRODUCT OF HIS MASSIVE ***IQ.***

IT'S IRONIC THAT ***J2*** HAS INADVERTENTLY ENGINEERED THE PERFECT WEAPON TO ***DISRUPT*** THE VERY CHRISTIAN SOCIETY FROM WHICH IT HAD ONCE DRAWN SO MUCH SUPPORT.

ALREADY AT ODDS WITH SCIENTISTS, THE ***NAC*** WERE HORRIFIED WHEN JESUS CHRIST AND THE FLAK JACKETS WON A NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAST MONTH NOT ONLY FOR ITS SCIENCE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN, BUT ALSO ITS PROGRAM TO HELP THE POOR.

HERE'S WHAT THEIR SPOKESWOMAN, DAISY MILTON, HAD TO SAY IN AN EARLIER INTERVIEW.

THE ***NEW AMERICAN CHRISTIANS*** WILL NOT TOLERATE THIS! IF YOU THINK WE'RE GOING TO GIVE UP AND LET THE ***ANTI-CHRIST*** WIN THIS WAR, THEN YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER THING COMING.

LIVE

BUT CHRIS IS HELPING THE ***POOR***--ISN'T THAT WHAT THE JESUS OF THE CHRISTIAN BIBLE DID?

AND TRUE TO FORM, MILTON AND THE ***NAC*** HAVE WASTED NO TIME FIGHTING THE FLAK JACKET MOVEMENT. DOZENS OF CLASHES BETWEEN THE ***NAC*** AND WHAT'S BEING CALLED "THE PUNK ARMY" HAVE BEEN REPORTED NATIONWIDE.

THE FLAK JACKETS

CRUCIFY the CLONE

JESUS IS LORD

THE MOST BLOODY, OF COURSE, BEING THE ALL-OUT ***BRAWLS*** THAT HAPPEN DURING CONCERTS.

IT'S CERTAINLY THE ***STORY*** OF THE YEAR AS ***"THE FLAK JACKETS"*** AND ***"PUNK ARMY"*** HAVE BEEN ***TRENDING*** ON ***TWITTER*** WORLDWIDE FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS. IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYONE HAS AN OPINION ON CHRIS' MEDIA WAR.

THERE IS ONE OPINION ***MISSING,*** HOWEVER. THE ONE MAN WE HAVE YET TO HEAR FROM IN ALL THIS?

RICK SLATE.

the Boiler Room with BON BAKER LIVE

WHY DO YOU THINK RICK SLATE HASN'T BEEN DOING ***MORE*** TO STOP YOU?

BECAUSE HE'S A PUSSY!

...UH...I'M NOT SURE IF YOU CAN SAY THAT WORD ON ***LIVE*** TELEVISION.

WHAT WORD? ***PUSSY?***

SLATE MADE A NUMBER OF ATTEMPTS, NONE OF WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLIC.

TELL US.

FIRST HE TRIED TO PAY US OFF, THEN HE THREATENED LEGAL ACTION, CLAIMING THAT I WAS ***OWNED*** BY OPHIS. HE'S EVEN RESORTED TO FLATTERY AND ATTEMPTED TO HELP FUND OUR TOUR. IN EXCHANGE FOR A CUT OF THE PROFITS, OF COURSE.

IT SEEMS LIKE ***OPHIS*** COULD BE DOING MORE. IT'S SUCH A POWERFUL COMPANY--WHAT'S TO STOP THEM FROM ***SWOOPING*** IN AND GRABBING YOU?

THE CAMPAIGN IS TOO PUBLIC, AND THEY DON'T WANT TO BE THE BAD GUY ANYMORE. AS LONG AS THE ***CAMERAS*** ARE ROLLING I'M PROTECTED BY THE WATCHING EYES OF THE WORLD.

THE PUBLICITY THAT ***RUINED*** YOUR CHILDHOOD IS ACTUALLY WORKING TO YOUR ***ADVANTAGE*** NOW.

IT'S OUR ***BEST*** WEAPON.

SO WHAT DO YOU ***WANT*** FROM SLATE? HOW DOES THIS ***ALL*** END?

THIS ENDS WHEN SLATE RELEASES THE SHROUD. THEN I CAN HAVE SCIENTISTS PROVE THAT I'M ***NOT*** REALLY A ***CLONE*** OF JESUS CHRIST.

AND WHY DO YOU THINK HE ***WON'T*** RELEASE THE SHROUD?

HE HAS TOO MUCH TO LOSE. ONCE I PROVE THAT SLATE HAS BEEN LYING, ***J2*** WILL BE RUINED AND THE POLITICIANS ON OPHIS' PAYROLL WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO INVESTIGATE. IN THE END, SLATE WILL BE THEIR SCAPEGOAT.

AND IF THE SHROUD ***ISN'T*** REAL--IF THERE'S NO ***DNA*** ON IT--THEN WHOM DO YOU THINK YOU'RE A CLONE ***OF?***

I DON'T CARE WHOSE ***DNA*** I COME FROM.

THE WAY I SEE IT, I'M THE ***BASTARD*** CHILD OF AMERICA'S RUNAWAY ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX.

YOU'RE KIDDING ME.

FLAK Jacket H.Q.

NO. I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY SEEN THE SHROUD. SLATE HANDED ME THE ***DNA*** AND HAD ME SIGN A NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT.

WAS IT 2,000 YEARS OLD?

IF I TOLD YOU, CHRIS, THEN I'LL LOSE EVERYTHING. REBEKAH AND I ARE ***SO*** CLOSE TO FINISHING--

YOUR TESTIMONY COULD END THIS! IS YOUR ***WORK*** MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU THAN ***I*** AM?

WOULD YOU REALLY HAVE ME CHOOSE ***YOU*** OVER THE EIGHT BILLION PEOPLE ON THIS PLANET?

THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING YOU CAN DO, DOCTOR. YOUR HELP WOULD GIVE ME MY ***FREEDOM.***

YOU ***ARE*** FREE, CHRIS! NO ONE IS MAKING YOU DO ALL THIS.

EVEN IF I TOLD YOU EVERYTHING YOU'D STILL NEED THE EVIDENCE THAT'S LOCKED UP AT ***J2.*** ONCE MY WORK IS COMPLETED AND THE ALGAE IS SAFELY AWAY FROM SLATE, I'LL TELL YOU ALL YOU WANT TO KNOW. AND ***MORE.***

JUST LIE LOW FOR A FEW WEEKS. NO NEED TO KEEP PUTTING YOURSELF AT RISK.

I'M NOT LYING LOW. EVER.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THERE'S TOO MUCH WRONG WITH THIS COUNTRY. THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES FOR RELIGIOUS BELIEF, AND NOW THAT I HAVE THEIR UNDIVIDED ***ATTENTION,*** I'M GOING TO GIVE THEM THEIR FUCKING MEDICINE.

ME AND THE FLAK JACKETS ARE GOING TO MAKE THEM LISTEN.

YOU'RE ***FIFTEEN*** YEARS OLD, CHRIS--

DON'T PRETEND YOU DON'T ***AGREE*** WITH ME! YOU'VE DEDICATED YOUR LIFE TO SAVING THE PLANET. GLOBAL WARMING IS ***DIRECTLY LINKED*** TO THE KIND OF ***BLINDNESS*** I'M TRYING TO FIGHT!

I'M YOUNG, I HAVE AN ***IQ*** OF ***185,*** AND I'M THE MOST ***FAMOUS PERSON IN HISTORY!*** IF ANYONE IS GOING TO DO THIS, IT HAS TO BE ***ME.***

SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE A ***MOTHER*** TO YOU, AND I CAN'T BEAR TO WATCH YOU ***DRIVE*** YOURSELF INTO THE GROUND LIKE THIS.

MY MOTHER WAS A ***BRAIN-WASHED*** MEDIA-WHORE AND A ***DRUNK.***

Slap!

YOUR MOTHER DID THE BEST SHE ***COULD.*** AND SHE'D HATE TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS.

I'M OUT OF HERE.

THANK YOU, SAN DIEGO!

AND MAY THE LORD JESUS BLESS YOU AND NONE OF YOUR ENEMIES!

GIVING A BLESSING TO YOUR SHEEP?

IT WAS MEANT TO BE IRONIC.

I KNOW.

THERE'S A "MAKE A WISH" KID WAITING FOR YOU BACKSTAGE. HE'S GOT LEUKEMIA AND PROBABLY DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO LIVE, AND HIS BIGGEST WISH WAS TO MEET YOU.

I DON'T KNOW...IS "MAKE A WISH" A RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION?

WHY DOES IT MATTER, CHRIS?

YOU KNOW WHY IT MATTERS.

YOU'RE GOING TO MEET HIM BECAUSE IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

AND IF YOU DON'T COME WILLINGLY, THEN I'LL HAVE THOMAS DRAG YOU!

NICE TO MEET YOU, MAN. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

JOEL!

FLAK JACKETS

DUDE, I'M A HUGE FAN! THANKS SO MUCH FOR TAKING THE TIME TO ***MEET*** ME. I KNOW YOU'RE REALLY IMPORTANT AND ALL.

WE'RE ALL IMPORTANT.

DON'T TAKE THIS THE ***WRONG*** WAY, BUT I'M ACTUALLY A CHRISTIAN. I USED TO BE AN ATHEIST, BUT WHEN I FOUND OUT I WAS DYING, I SORT OF CHANGED MY MIND. BUT THAT DOESN'T STOP ME FROM ***LOVING*** WHAT YOU'RE DOING. I AGREE WITH MOST OF YOUR LYRICS AND I LOVE HAVING MY ***FAITH*** CHALLENGED!

I WAS WONDERING-- AND YOU CAN ***TOTALLY*** SAY NO--IF YOU'D BE WILLING TO GIVE ME A BLESSING? I KNOW IT'S NOT YOUR THING, BUT IT WOULD REALLY MEAN A LOT.

THE FLAK JACKETS

BECAUSE I DON'T ***BELIEVE*** IN A GOD, JOEL, IT WOULDN'T MEAN ANYTHING.

WHAT IF I PROMISED TO KEEP YOU IN MY THOUGHTS? AND ***DEDICATED*** MY NEXT SONG TO YOU?

HUGO

ARE YOU ***SERIOUS?*** THAT WOULD BE FUCKING ***AWESOME!***

WHEN J2 STARTED, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK ABOUT CHRIS.

WHOOM

MY MAMA RAISED US SOUTHERN BAPTIST, BUT I STOPPED GOING TO CHURCH ONCE I LEFT FOR SCHOOL.

I WAS THE FIRST IN MY FAMILY TO LEAVE GEORGIA AND GET A DEGREE, SO I MADE MYSELF WORK REAL HARD. STILL BELIEVED IN GOD AN' ALL, BUT THERE WASN'T MUCH TIME FOR CHURCH BETWEEN STUDYING AND EXAMS.

I THOUGHT J2 WOULD BRING ME BACK TO THE LORD, BUT IT HASN'T. I STILL BELIEVE IN GOD, BUT THE SECOND COMING SURE AS HELL AIN'T CHRIS.

I'M TIRED OF TALKING. NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE NINTENDO GAME?

CONTRA.

HOLD ON--WE'VE GOT TROUBLE!

THIS IS DAISY MILTON OF THE ***NAC!*** WE HAVE YOU SURROUNDED!

TAKE THE WHEEL.

NAC

NRA

KREED

VOTE W BUSH

GOD

WHAT IS IT ***THIS*** TIME?

AWESOME! THE ***NAC*** IS BACK! YOU'RE GONNA SHOOT OUT THEIR TIRES, AREN'T YOU?

PULL OVER AND PREPARE TO RELEASE THE ***BLASPHEMER*** INTO OUR CUSTODY!

BANG!

THROW!

THE REIGN OF THE ANTI-CHRIST IS ***OVER!***

KITSHH!

WAS THAT A MOLOTOV COCKTAIL? SWEET!

GET OUT OF MY WAY.

ARE THOSE ***RUBBER BULLET*** GUNS? WHY WASN'T I TOLD?

BECAUSE YOU'RE ANNOYING.

COME ON, MAN! I WANT TO HELP!

YOU WANT TO HELP? PULL THAT LEVER.

JUST LIKE ***KNIGHT RIDER!***

HE FLAK JACKETS

VROOM!

AS THE SHINING KNIGHTS OF THE LORD'S HOLINESS, THE ***NAC*** IS PREPARED TO ***END*** THIS CHARADE AT WHATEVER COST!

AND THERE'S NO USE FIGHTING BACK BECAUSE THERE'S ***NOTHING*** WE CAN'T DEFEND AGAIN--

PUDDA PUDDA PUDDA PUDDA PUDDA PUDDA PUDDA PUDDA

GOO BATES FAGS

WHACK!

THRUNK!

CRUISE CONTROL

IRAH!

...YOUR MOTHER... WOULD...TOTALLY DISAPPROVE...

...OF YOUR BEHAVIOR...

...CHRISTOPHER.

HER PULSE IS WEAK. THE OTHERS ARE UNCONSCIOUS. WE NEED TO GET THEM TO A HOSPITAL.

FUCK THAT! THEY SET OUR BUS ON FIRE! LEAVE THEM HERE.

I WON'T LET THEM DIE.

EMERGENCY

St. John's Hospital

MILTON IS GOING TO BE OKAY. THE OTHERS AS WELL.

BUT IF **YOU** DON'T STOP, THEN NEITHER WILL THEY. THE **NAC** WILL BECOME A CHRISTIAN AL-QAEDA.

IT'S ALL PART OF MY PLAN. FUNDAMENTALISTS LIKE THE **NAC** ARE **DESTROYING** THEIR OWN RELIGION. BECAUSE OF THEIR BAD EXAMPLE, MANY CHRISTIANS ARE STEPPING BACK.

THEN **QUIT** WHILE YER AHEAD. I'VE GOT MILLIONS SAVED UP FROM **J2**--LET ME USE IT TO HIDE YEH.

DO YOU STILL BELIEVE THAT I'M JESUS CHRIST?

YES.

THEN WHY ARE YOU **QUESTIONING** MY DECISION TO DO THIS? ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU BELIEVE THE ORIGINAL JESUS DID? HE FOUGHT THE POWERS-THAT-BE AND PREACHED AGAINST ACCEPTED DOCTRINE.

I PROMISED YOUR MOTHER I'D TAKE CARE OF YOU.

AND SUDDENLY YOU **CARE** ABOUT MURDER? THE **IRA,** THE TROUBLES, AND THE DOZENS OF PEOPLE YOU KILLED. AND NO OFFENSE, BUT DON'T PRETEND THAT YOUR STRUGGLE IS **ANYTHING** LIKE WHAT I'M GOING THROUGH.

YOURS WAS A WAR **OF** RELIGION. MINE IS AGAINST IT.

THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT...

"THE *IRA* LIKES TO *PRETEND* IT'S ABOUT RELIGION. BUT IT WAS TOO LATE BEFORE I UNDERSTOOD THAT."

FIVE MINUTES UNTIL THEY CHANGE THEIR SHIFTS. THAT MEANS TWICE AS MANY *RUC* WILL BE WITHIN RANGE.

GOOD THING WE BLEND IN WITH THESE RACING STRIPES.

BEST I COULD DO ON SHORT NOTICE.

SURE THIS IS GOING TO WORK?

THE POLICE INSTALLED RADIO SCRAMBLERS IN ALL THE STATIONS. SO IF WE CAN'T REMOTE-DETONATE ANYMORE...

...WE DO IT THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY.

I SEE DECLAN AND WILL ARE IN PLACE.

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE READY. MOVE UP.

VROOOO!

OI! YOU CAN'T LEAVE THIS HERE! MOVE IT ALONG!

YOU HEAR WHAT I *SAID*, SPUD?

THE BUS.

THERE'S A SCHOOL BUS THERE! WE NEED TO ABORT.

TOO LATE. BESIDES, IT'S A PROTESTANT BUS.

INNOCENT CHILDREN ARE NOT OUR TARGET!

IT'S COLLATERAL DAMAGE. YOU KNOW THAT.

SCHOOL BUS

IT'S NOT *RIGHT.*

YEAH, YOU! MOVE THE BLOODY CAR.

KRAK!

SCHOOL BUS

WHUD.

Toss!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

SEEMS THOMAS HAS A WEAK SPOT FER KIDS.

MOVE THE BUS!

BLOODY HELL! I CAN'T GO ANYWHERE IN TRAFFIC, NOW CAN I?

WHUD!

SCHOOL BUS

VROOM

ALERT! ALERT! SHUT THE GATE!

BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA

THOMAS! GET THE FUCK *OUT* OF THERE!

BOOM!

MY ENTIRE LIFE, I'VE BEEN TRYING T'FIGURE OUT WHY GOD WOULD MAKE ME SO GOOD AT KILLING.

I HAD AN ***UNNATURAL*** GIFT, IT SEEMED. AND I WAS CERTAIN THAT HE INTENDED ME T'SERVE THE CAUSE.

BUT I WAS WRONG.

"AND THEN ONE DAY I MET YOUR MOTHER-- SO SWEET, INNOCENT AND PURE.

"SHE NEEDED ME. TO PROTECT HER FROM ALL THE HORROR OUT THERE. THE HORROR THAT ***I*** REPRESENTED."

AND FINALLY IT WAS CLEAR TO ME WHAT GOD INTENDED ALL ALONG...

...ALL MY CRIMES WEREN'T FOR NOTHING BECAUSE EVENTUALLY THEY LED ME TO GWEN. I COULD FINALLY USE MY GIFTS FER SOMETHING GOOD.

THERE IS NO GOD, THOMAS. YOUR GIFTS WERE THE PRODUCT OF YOUR UNCLE'S INDOCTRINATION. YOU WERE BRAINWASHED.

I KNOW YOU WANT PURPOSE AND DEEPER MEANING TO MAKE IT ALL WORTH IT, BUT BELIEVE ME, THE WORLD MAKES A LOT MORE ***SENSE*** IF YOU STOP THINKING THAT WAY.

RELIGION DID THIS TO YOU. RELIGION IS WHAT I'M TRYING TO STOP.

BLIND IDEALISM DID THIS TO ME. AND IT'S DOING IT TO YOU.

THERE'S STILL TIME FOR ***ONE*** OF US TO MAKE PEACE.

AM I INTERRUPTING SOMETHING? LOOKS PRETTY HEAVY OUT HERE.

MILTON IS AWAKE.

HELLO, I'M OFFICER GOSLIN. IT'S A HUGE PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, SON.

SHE'S OKAY?

SHE'S A LITTLE BANGED UP, BUT SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

KRIK.

LET ME SPEAK OFF THE RECORD TO BOTH OF YOU: I'VE BEEN WATCHING THE SHOW FOR YEARS, SO I UNDERSTAND BOTH SIDES HERE.

NO REASON TO FILE A REPORT.

GOSLIN

MRS. MILTON HAS ADMITTED THAT SHE ATTACKED YOUR BUS. AND WHILE HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ACTING IN SELF DEFENSE, YOUR BODYGUARD ***DID*** USE UNNECESSARY FORCE BY CRASHING HER CAR OFF THE ROAD AND INJURING FOUR OTHER PASSENGERS.

BUT IN THE END, YA'LL DID THE RIGHT THING BY GETTING HER THE HELP SHE NEEDS. AND IT SEEMS LIKE YOU SAVED HER LIFE.

GOSLIN

FORGIVE ME, CHRIS. I ***SHOULDN'T*** HAVE ATTACKED YOU.

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE ***MISGUIDED*** BY THE DEVIL, I KNOW YOU'LL COME BACK TO THE LIGHT. LET'S JUST ***FORGIVE*** EACH OTHER FOR OUR SINS AND END THIS SILLY CONFLICT.

GET WELL

GET WELL SOON

YOU HELPED CREATE ME, MILTON... TWICE.

J2 EXISTS BECAUSE THEY KNEW THEY COULD PROFIT FROM THE VIEWERSHIP OF FAT, MIDWESTERN CHRISTIAN HOUSEWIVES LIKE YOU. AND YOUR CONSTANT HARASSMENT OVER THE YEARS ONLY INCREASED RATINGS.

THEN YOU CREATED ME A ***SECOND*** TIME WHEN YOU CONTRIBUTED TO MY MOTHER'S DEATH.

THAT'S WHEN MY FAITH FELL APART. THAT'S WHEN I BECAME AN ***ATHEIST.*** AND THAT'S WHY WE'RE ENEMIES.

YOU'VE BEEN BEATEN, AND I'VE ONLY JUST GOTTEN STARTED.

ONCE WE'VE FINISHED TOURING THE UNITED STATES, WE'LL BRING OUR MESSAGE WORLDWIDE.

THE FLAK JACKETS WILL HIT EVERY CHRISTIAN HOT-SPOT ON THE PLANET.

STARTING WITH ***JERUSALEM,*** THE BIRTHPLACE OF CHRISTIANITY!

NOOOO-OOOOO!

STOP OBSESSING ABOUT IT. THOMAS IS WITH HIM--CHRIS WILL BE ALL RIGHT.

I'M ***NOT*** OBSESSING.

GIVE ME A HAND. THE SOONER WE FINISH OUR WORK, THE SOONER WE CAN HELP CHRIS.

THE CHAMBER SHOWS A 10% REDUCTION OF GREENHOUSE GASES.

REALLY?!

DON'T GET EXCITED YET-- THERE'S STILL MORE WORK TO DO. BUT SOON WE'LL BE FINISHED.

...MONTHS OF TOURING THE UNITED STATES WITH HIS BAND THE FLAK JACKETS, CHRIS HAS JUST ANNOUNCED THE START OF A ***EUROPEAN TOUR,*** WITH THEIR KICKOFF CONCERT IN JERUSALEM.

USUALLY THE ***BATTLEGROUND*** CITY BETWEEN THE THREE ABRAHAMIC RELIGIONS--CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM, AND JUDAISM--THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS CONCERT SEEMS TO HAVE TEMPORARILY ***UNITED*** THE THREE GROUPS AS THEY TAKE TO THE STREETS IN PROTEST.

THERE'S A LOT THEY ***DON'T*** AGREE ON, BUT ONE THING IS FOR CERTAIN: THEY DON'T WANT JESUS, THE FLAK JACKETS AND THE "PUNK ROCK ARMY" ANYWHERE ***NEAR*** THEM BECAUSE OF THE OBVIOUS DANGER IT'S LIKELY TO BRING.

TV, OFF.

HEARD THAT YOU'RE ALMOST DONE WITH YOUR ALGAE.

SOON.

ARE YOU TAKING YOUR WHOLE STAFF WITH YOU ONCE YOU'RE DONE?

YES.

I'LL BE THE ONLY ONE LEFT, THEN. ALL ALONE.

AND I SHOULD FEEL SORRY FOR YOU?

I STILL CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW ALL THIS WENT WRONG.

NO ONE BELIEVES ME, BUT I REALLY DID BUILD **J2** WITH THE ***BEST*** OF INTENTIONS. AMERICA IS ONE OF THE MOST CHRISTIAN NATIONS ON EARTH.

I WAS JUST GIVING THEM WHAT THEY WANTED.

PEOPLE SOMETIMES WANT SOMETHING THAT'S NOT GOOD FOR THEM. AND YOU DELIVERED.

GOD MADE ME ***CUNNING,*** DOCTOR.

IT'S NOT MY FAULT I'VE BEEN GIVEN SUCH AN UNHOLY GIFT.

DO YOU ***BELIEVE*** IN GOD?

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

I THINK RABBIT IS GONNA CHICKEN OUT.

I READ A HUNDRED BOOKS ON RELIGION BEFORE I ESCAPED **J2.** I KNOW WHAT WE'RE GETTING INTO--IT'S NOTHING WE CAN'T HANDLE.

YER ***WRONG.*** AND YER ARROGANCE PUTS US ALL AT RISK.

WHO CARES WHAT ***YOU*** THINK? YOU SHARE THE SAME OLD TESTAMENT WITH JEWS AND MUSLIMS. TO ME, YOU'RE ALL THE SAME.

BETWEEN MY TIME WITH THE ***IRA*** AND THE ***SRR,*** I'VE KNOWN MANY ARABS. THEY'RE NOT THE ***NAC.*** THEY'RE NOT WESTERN THINKERS.

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY HAS HELPED PROTECT YEH UP TO THIS POINT. BUT ONCE WE LEAVE THE COUNTRY, THERE'S NOTHING TO STOP DOZENS OF DIFFERENT FACTIONS, ALL OF WHOM ***HATE*** YEH.

WOULD THEY REALLY TRY SOME-THING?

IF I WAS A MUSLIM EXTREMIST, ***I*** WOULD.

JERUSALEM IS A ***SYMBOL***--THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO GO. WE MAKE A STAND. IF WE PLAY JERUSALEM, WE'LL KNOW THAT WE PUSHED THIS AS FAR AS IT COULD GO.

JUST THIS ONE LAST CONCERT. PLEASE.

"THEN IT'LL ALL BE OVER."

KHUD!

THOMAS McKAEL. DEVOTED CATHOLIC FREEDOM FIGHTER FOR THE PROVISIONAL I.R.A., A.K.A. "THE CEMETERY"-- A NAME LIKELY DERIVED FROM THE CROSSES TATTOOED ACROSS HIS SHOULDERS.

RUMORED ONE BADGE FOR EACH VICTIM.

THAT YOU?

LOOKS LIKE A CEMETERY TO ME.

SHKRRT

GIVE US A BIT OF PRIVACY, WOULD YOU, SERGEANT?

ARE YOU MAD?

I KNOW YOU AND YOUR MEN WANT BLOOD, BUT I'LL HANDLE THIS ALONE.

WE'LL HAVE WORDS WITH YOU LATER, SPUD.

MY NAME IS CHIEF INSPECTOR GRANT OF THE R.U.C.

I KNOW I.R.A. PROTOCOL FOR INTERROGATIONS IS FOR YOU TO STARE AT THE WALL AND SAY NOTHING. WHICH IS FINE, BECAUSE REALLY, I JUST NEED YOU TO LISTEN.

NOVEMBER 6TH, 1987-- POLICE RESPOND TO REPORTS OF A SHOOTING NEAR THE FALLS ROAD. TWO SUSPECTED I.R.A. MEMBERS, ***AINE*** AND ***THOMAS McKAEL, SR.,*** WERE FOUND DEAD AFTER A STRUGGLE WITH UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS DURING A HOME INVASION.

THIS IS THE NIGHT THAT ***CHANGED*** YOUR LIFE.

THE I.R.A. BLAMED THE ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE, ITS PROTESTANT COUNTERPART. WHEN WE FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF U.V.F. INVOLVEMENT, THE I.R.A. ACCUSED THE R.U.C. OF PROTECTING THE U.V.F., BLAH BLAH BLAH...

I HAD A GOOD IDEA ***WHO*** THE SHOOTERS WERE, BUT WITHOUT PROPER EVIDENCE, I COULDN'T MAKE AN ARREST. PLUS THERE WAS STILL A MISSING ***CHILD*** I HAD TO WORRY ABOUT-- WHAT HAPPENED TO LITTLE THOMAS McKAEL?

AND AFTER TWELVE YEARS OF SEARCHING, LOOKS LIKE I ***FINALLY*** HAVE AN ANSWER.

INDOCTRINATED BY HIS UNCLE, LITTLE THOMAS McKAEL SET OUT TO BE THE I.R.A. WARRIOR THAT WOULD MAKE HIS DAD PROUD. THE TRAINING CAME NATURAL FOR THOMAS--AFTER ALL, IT WAS IN HIS BLOOD.

UNTIL ONE DAY "THE CEMETERY" IS ARRESTED FOR MURDERING THREE COPS AND ONE LITTLE GIRL.

TELL ME--WILL THE GIRL GET A CROSS AS WELL? MAYBE A LITTLE ***PINK*** ONE?

BEFORE YOU ANSWER THAT, I HAVE SOMETHING THAT YOUR FATHER WOULD ***WANT*** YOU TO SEE.

TKSSSSS...

STATE YOUR NAME FOR THE CAMERA, PLEASE.

THOMAS McKAEL, SR. MARRIED TO AINE McKAEL, MY WIFE OF TEN YEARS. WE HAVE A SON, THOMAS JUNIOR--HE'LL BE SEVEN SOON.

AND WHY ARE YOU HERE TODAY?

I'M HERE TO EXCHANGE ***I.R.A.*** INFORMATION FOR POLICE PROTEC-TION.

ARE YOU A ***MEMBER*** OF THE I.R.A.?

MY OLDER BROTHER AND I DID A LITTLE ***HELL-RAISING*** AS BOYS, AND I HAVE RECEIVED SOME INITIAL TRAINING FROM I.R.A. GUNMEN.

--BUT I'VE ***NEVER*** BEEN A MEMBER OF THE ***I.R.A.***

SO WHAT INFORMATION DO YOU HAVE?

SAFE HOUSES, OPERATIVES. SINN FEIN CONNECTIONS, AND I KNOW THE LOCATION OF WEAPON CACHES.

MY BROTHER ***SULLY*** IS THE QUARTER-MASTER OF THE I.R.A.'S BELFAST BRIGADE. HE'S THE ***REASON*** I'M HERE--EVER SINCE I QUIT MY I.R.A. TRAINING, HE THINKS ME A LIABILITY.

WHY DID YOU ***QUIT*** YOUR TRAINING?

ONE DAY I FOUND MY SON HOLDING ONE OF MY PISTOLS. HE HAD REMOVED THE CLIP AND SOME OF THE BULLETS ALL ON HIS OWN--HE'S ONLY ***SIX*** AND HE CAN DO THIS.

GOD HAS GIVEN ME A SIGN--SHOWN ME WHAT MY SON MIGHT BE CAPABLE OF IF HE WASN'T RAISED PROPERLY.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HAND?

MY PROMISE NEVER TO REVEAL I.R.A. ***SECRETS*** WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH, SO SULLY THREATENED ME AND MY FAMILY. I BROKE MY HAND AGAINST HIS JAW, KNOCKED HIM RIGHT OUT.

TO PROTECT MY FAMILY AND KEEP MY SON OUT OF THE DEVIL'S HANDS, I'M ASKING FOR R.U.C. ***PROTECTION.***

MY NAME IS ***CHARLES GRANT,*** INSPECTOR FOR THE R.U.C., I.D. BADGE 44628.

IN THE NAME OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, I OFFICIALLY ACCEPT THE REQUEST OF THOMAS McKAEL FOR POLICE PROTECTION IN EXCHANGE FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE I.R.A.'S BELFAST BRIGADE.

THAT'S IT?

ONCE IT'S ON RECORD, WE CAN START MAKING ARRANGE-MENTS TO HIDE YOUR FAMILY.

HARD PART IS OVER, TOM. I PROMISE I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO PROTECT YOUR WIFE AND SON.

I TOLD YOUR FATHER THAT WE SHOULD SEND YOU AND YOUR MOTHER AWAY, BUT HE INSISTED ON HAVING ONE LAST NIGHT BEFORE YOUR FAMILY WAS UPROOTED.

THAT DECISION PROVED TO BE FATAL. IT'S NOT ONE I WOULD MAKE AGAIN.

YOU WERE CAUGHT BOMBING A POLICE STATION. YOUR FRIENDS OPENED FIRE ON R.U.C. OFFICERS. THREE OF THEM WERE KILLED-- ***THEY WERE FRIENDS OF MINE.*** YOU ALSO INJURED FOUR SCHOOL-CHILDREN WITH A CAR BOMB, KILLING ONE LITTLE GIRL.

YOU'RE A CRIMINAL AND YOU'RE GOING TO PRISON, ***REGARDLESS*** OF YOUR ATTEMPT TO DRIVE THE BUS TO SAFETY.

SO HERE'S MY OFFER-- AND I'M ONLY DOING THIS AS A FAVOR TO YOUR DAD: GO ***SUPERGRASS.***

FINISH WHAT HE STARTED AND HELP ME ARREST AS MANY I.R.A. AS ***POSSIBLE.*** YOU'LL BE TREATED AS A POLITICAL PRISONER AND SERVE LESS TIME.

"WE'LL TRANSFER YOU TO ANOTHER CELL WHILE YOU THINK IT OVER FOR A FEW NIGHTS."

FUCK, THIS *FUCKER* IS BIG.

YEH, HAD TO USE PLASTIC RESTRAINTS.

YOU USED MORE THAN *ONE*, I HOPE.

TSSS

...BE ON WATCH FOR THOMAS "THE CEMETERY" McKAEL--SIX FEET SEVEN INCHES, 275 POUNDS, LIKELY TO BE ARMED AND DANGEROUS...

GOOD FER 'IM, HE'S GOTTEN AWAY.

SOMEONE CALL THE NUTTING SQUAD--MAKE SURE HE DIDN'T GIVE ANYTHING TO THE PEELERS.

BRAKKA-BRAKKA-BRAKKA-BRAKKA!

YEH SHOULD 'AVE ***KILLED*** ME ALONG WITH MY PARENTS.

WHATEVER THE PEELERS TOLD YEH, THOMAS--IGNORE IT. THEY'LL SAY ANYTHING TO GET YEH TO TALK.

THEY TOLD ME HE WAS AGAINST THE I.R.A.

THEY TOLD ME ABOUT THE FIGHT YE'D HAD...

...HIS BROKEN FIST...

...HOW HE WENT TO THE POLICE.

HOW ELSE DID YEH ARRIVE SO QUICKLY AFTER THE ATTACK? IT WAS ***YOU*** OUTSIDE OUR WINDOW.

"YEH LET ME BELIEVE IT WAS ***MY*** FAULT THEY DIED.

"YEH SAID IT WAS MY BULLET, BUT REALLY IT WAS ***YERS.***"

I'LL LOOK AFTER YER BOY. I'LL SHOW HIM HIS BIRTHRIGHT.

YEH WEREN'T SPARING HIS SUFFERING, IT WAS AN ***EXECUTION.*** THEN YEH TURNED ME AGAINST HIM.

ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD, IT'S OKAY FOR BROTHERS T' DISAGREE.

BUT THIS IS ***BELFAST.***

I TOOK YEH IN SO YEH COULD RESTORE THE FAMILY HONOR THAT HE TARNISHED--IT WASN'T MEANT AS REVENGE.

WHATEVER IT'S WORTH, KNOW THAT YEH'VE MADE ME ***PROUD,*** THOMAS.

BUT IN THE END, YEH ***ARE*** YER FATHER'S SON. NOT MINE.

BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA

THE LORD HAS GIVEN YOU REVENGE, THOMAS. BUT NOW IS THE TIME TO REPENT.

HOW SHALL I REPENT?

HELP RESTORE JUSTICE TO THE LAND, AND THE LORD WILL SOONER FREE YOU FROM THESE WALLS.

BUT HEED MY WARNING...

...TAKE ONE MORE *LIFE,* AND I'LL SEE YOU BURN IN HELL.

"ONE DAY YOU'LL MEET ME AGAIN.

"IF IT'S *REDEMPTION* YOU SEEK, THEN YOU'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO."

MORNING, SUNSHINE. WE'RE ABOUT TO LAND.

theBoiler Room

BON BAKER

WE'RE ONE HOUR AWAY FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE MOST **CONTROVERSIAL** AND **ANTICIPATED** EVENT THIS YEAR:

JESUS CHRIST AND THE FLAK JACKETS **LIVE** IN JERUSALEM.

MANY ARE QUESTIONING THE CLONE'S DECISION TO PERFORM IN THE HOLY CITY, AND MASS PROTESTS HAVE BROKEN OUT.

IRONICALLY, THE NAME JESUS CHRIST HAS **UNITED** THE THREE MAJOR RELIGIONS.

BUT ARAB NATIONS ARE ACCUSING ISRAEL OF SANCTIONING THE CONCERT AS A WAY OF PROVOKING MUSLIM UNREST--GIVING THE JEWISH STATE JUSTIFICATION FOR A MILITARY RESPONSE.

CONCERNS OVER INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS HAVE MOTIVATED THE U.S. SENATE TO INVESTIGATE RICK SLATE AND **J2.**

IT LOOKS LIKE CHRIS IS GOING TO FINALLY **GET** WHAT HE WANTS.

AWESOME!

FLAK JACKETS

THE FLAK JACKETS

AFTER YEARS OF BEING IN A BAND CALLED **THE FLAK JACKETS,** I FINALLY GET TO WEAR ONE!

YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS?

I **HAVE** TO DO THIS.

EVERY-ONE STAY BEHIND THE SHIELDS. WALK QUICKLY.

SHOOM!

BOOM!

BRATTA
BRATTA
BRATTA
BRATTA
BRATTA

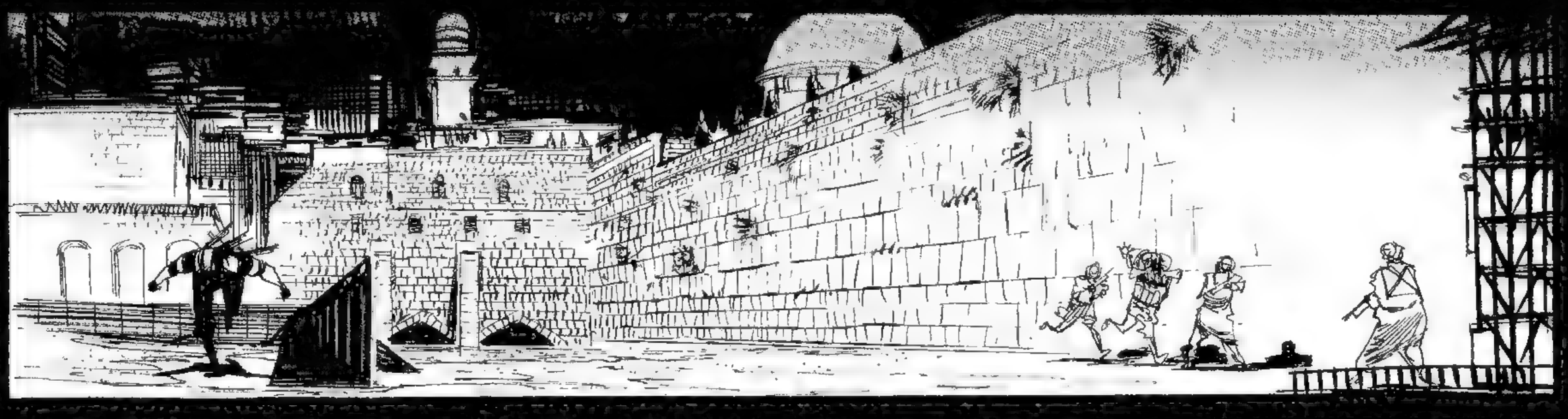
WHUD!

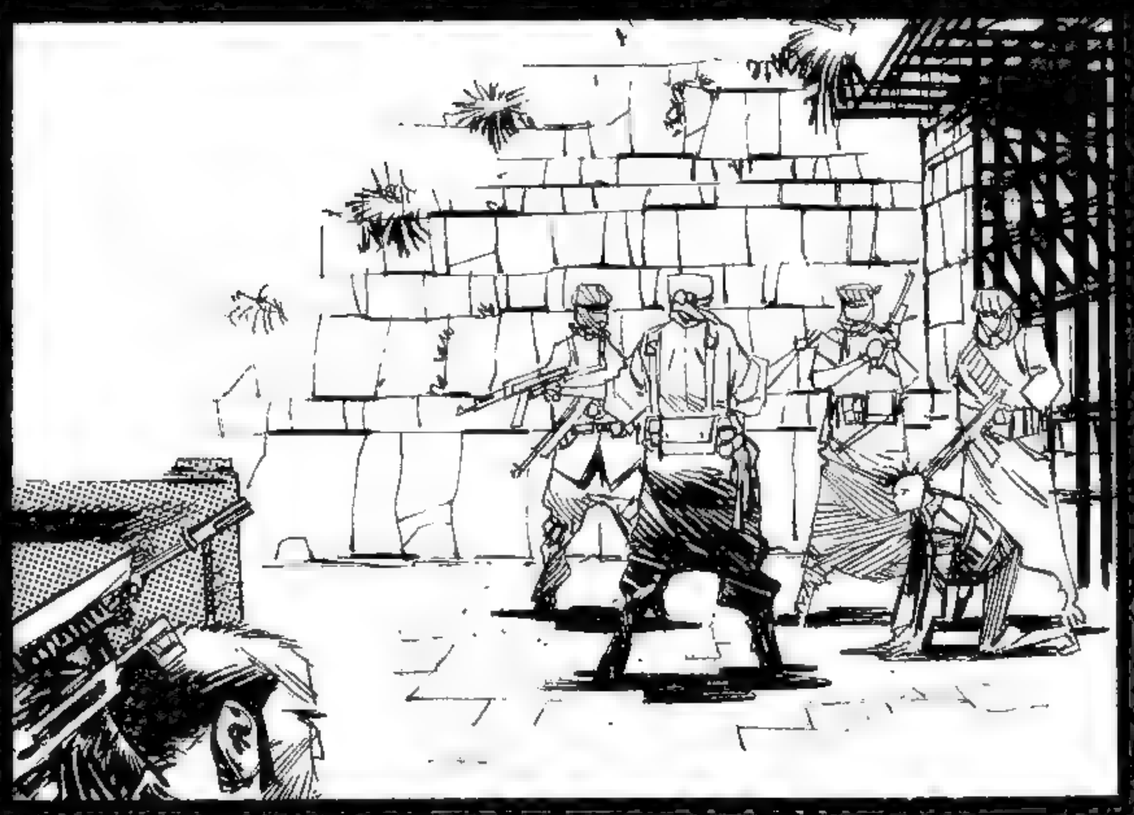
GRAB

TAKE

BRAAAK!

WHUD!





!WHUD!

KRAKK!

BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA

اخماد بندقيتك

اذهب إلي الجحيم

TAKE ONE MORE LIFE, AND YOU'LL GO TO HELL.

THOMAS, ***PROMISE*** ME YOU'LL LOOK AFTER CHRIS.

ONE DAY YOU'LL MEET ME AGAIN...

...IF IT'S REDEMPTION YOU WANT, YOU'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO.

CLIK.

CLIK.

HOLY SHIT, THAT WAS...

PROMISE ME YOU'RE THE SECOND COMING!

B-BUT...

TELL ME THAT ***YOU'RE*** JESUS AND THAT I'M ***NOT*** GOING TO HELL FOR BREAKING MY VOW!

MY WHOLE ***LIFE*** I'VE TRIED TO DO WHAT GOD HAS ASKED, BUT ALL I'VE EVER BEEN IS A FUCKING ***MURDERER!***

I PROMISED YER MOTHER I'D STOP ***KILLIN'***, THEN I PROMISED HER I'D LOOK AFTER YEH. BUT LOOKING AFTER YEH MEANT ***KILLING*** THESE MEN! IT ***DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!***

IS THERE ANY WAY I ***WON'T*** END UP IN HELL?! SEEMS LIKE I NEVER HAD A ***CHANCE!***

MY... MOTHER...***ACK***... WASN'T...MARY.

SHOVE

I LOVE YOU, RABBIT.

I LOVE HER, CHRIS. IF SHE DIES, I'LL HAVE NOTHING.

WE *ALL* KNEW THE RISK. AND ONCE SHE PULLS THROUGH, WE'LL CONTINUE WHAT WE STARTED.

WHEN WE LAND IN NEW YORK, I'M *TAKING* HER TO THE HOSPITAL AND YOU'LL *NEVER* SEE EITHER OF US AGAIN.

IF YOU QUIT, THEN THEY'LL *WIN*. IS THAT HOW YOU WANT TO END THIS?

SINCE ANNOUNCING THE CANCELLATION OF THEIR WORLD TOUR...

...NO ONE HAS HEARD A WORD FROM THE FLAK JACKETS...

...AS THEY CONTINUE TO MOURN THE LOSS OF THE SIX PEOPLE ***KILLED*** IN THE JERUSALEM ATTACK...

...MOST NOTABLY THE DEATH OF THEIR LEAD GUITARIST, RABBIT.

DON BAKER the Boiler Room

IF CHRIS WANTED A WAR...

LIVE

...THEN HE'S SUCCEEDED.

WORLD GREATE BOS

BECAUSE NOW THERE ARE ***CASUALTIES.***

WHO KNOWS WHAT KIND OF REPERCUSSIONS THIS WILL HAVE?

Mary's
J2 WAS MOSTLY EMPTY WHEN THE FIRE STARTED, THANK GOD.

THE LAB TECHS AND THE JANITOR MANAGED TO EVACUATE AND ESCAPE ON THE BOATS. NONE OF THE ALARMS WENT OFF, SO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT DIDN'T ARRIVE UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE.
ONLY SLATE HAS THE POWER TO TURN OFF THE ALARMS. THIS WAS HIM.
THAT'S WHY HE BUILT J2 ON AN ISLAND-- SO HE COULD DESTROY THE EVIDENCE IF ANYTHING EVER WENT WRONG.
YOU DON'T KNOW THAT.
I HAD THE SAME THOUGHT, CHRIS.
SO IT'S OVER, THEN--THERE'S NO EVIDENCE TO PROVE THAT I'M NOT JESUS.
HE WINS.
I CAN HELP YOU.
THERE'S EVIDENCE THAT SLATE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT. SOMETHING I HID A LONG TIME AGO.
HE WON'T SEE IT COMING, AND IT'S SURE TO DESTROY J2 FOR GOOD.
YOUR SISTER.

DON BAKER HERE, AND WE'RE A FEW DAYS AWAY FROM THE START OF THE ***J2 SENATE INQUIRY*** INTO THE CRIMINAL ALLEGATIONS AGAINST RICK SLATE.

WITH ME TONIGHT ARE THREE PEOPLE WHO NEED NO INTRODUCTION. THEY'RE COMING FORWARD TO SHARE INFORMATION THEY HOPE WILL ***CONDEMN*** SLATE ONCE AND FOR ALL.

the Boiler Room with DON BAKER

DR. EPSTEIN--IS CHRIS REALLY A ***CLONE*** OF JESUS CHRIST?

NO. I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN THE SHROUD. SLATE SIMPLY HANDED ME A VIAL OF ***DNA*** AND TOLD ME NOT TO ASK QUESTIONS. THE SAMPLE WAS A FEW ***DAYS*** OLD--NOT 2,000 YEARS OLD.

AFTER THAT, I KNEW I COULD NEVER TRUST SLATE. I NEEDED SOME BIT OF EVIDENCE THAT WOULD REVEAL THE ***TRUTH*** ABOUT ***J2***--SOMETHING THAT WOULD PROTECT ALL OF US IF THINGS EVER GOT OUT OF CONTROL.

SO I CREATED A ***TWIN.*** REBEKAH IS CHRIS'S TWIN SISTER.

WHAT?!

GWEN ***NEVER*** KNEW--ONLY SLATE AND I.

INSTEAD OF LETTING HIM GIVE HER UP FOR ADOPTION, I ***SECRETLY*** TOOK REBEKAH AS MY OWN DAUGHTER.

BUT YOU WERE ***PREGNANT*** DURING SEASON ONE. HOW DID YOU ***FAKE*** THE SONOGRAMS AND ALL THE MORNING SICKNESS?

I WAS A ***NOBEL PRIZE***-WINNING GENETICIST WITH A ***MULTIBILLION-DOLLAR*** MEDICAL FACILITY AT MY DISPOSAL--IT WASN'T HARD.

I SPLIT THE EMBRYO AND CREATED AN IDENTICAL TWIN, THEN ALTERED THE ***DNA*** TO MAKE HER FEMALE.

AND SINCE IDENTICAL TWINS CAN'T BE OPPOSITE SEXES, HE NEVER SUSPECTED.

A TWIN?

A GIRL CAN'T BE JESUS.

GIVE IT UP, YOU CHRISTIAN ASSHOLES! HE'S ***NOT*** YOUR MESSIAH!

HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN?

WE FOUND OUT YESTERDAY. HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A BROTHER TO ME, SO IT'S NOT SO DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE.

I WAS RAISED WITH LIES ALL AROUND ME. AT LEAST THIS ONE WORKS TO MY ADVANTAGE.

IS IT A BIT LESS LONELY KNOWING YOU HAVE ONE FAMILY MEMBER LEFT?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

DO YOU SHARE YOUR BROTHER'S ATHEISTIC TENDENCIES?

I UNDERSTAND THAT HE'S UPSET, AND I AGREE WITH A LOT OF WHAT HE SAYS, BUT I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE IN A HIGHER POWER. NOTHING UNDERSTOOD BY ANY MANMADE RELIGION, BUT I FIND COMFORT IN SOME KIND OF GOD.

YOU'VE BEEN CRITICIZED FOR BEING OVERLY PREACHY IN YOUR STATEMENTS, CHRIS--DO YOU EVER THINK ABOUT TAKING A SOFTER APPROACH LIKE YOUR SISTER?

NOT ALL FAITHS ARE AS HARMLESS AS MY SISTER'S.

AND WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO CODDLE IDIOTS LIKE DAISY MILTON ANYMORE.

THEIR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IS IMPEDING ANY PROGRESS. THERE'S TOO MUCH AT STAKE FOR US TO CONTINUE TOLERATING HER OUTDATED THINKING.

ENOUGH!

BRATTA! BRATTA! BRATTA! BRATTA! BRATTA! BRATTA!

BAND TOGETHER, BROTHERS AND SISTERS!

SECURITY

SECURITY

DON BAKER SECURITY

YO--THERE'S A **SECURITY** PROBLEM. **NAC** IS BREAKING IN.

WHERE IS HE?

BRAAAK!

UP THE STAIRS!

HE'LL **PAY** FOR HIS BLASPHEMY.

THE **NAC** HAS OPENED FIRE IN THE LOBBY. TWO SECURITY GUARDS ARE DOWN.

HOW **CHRISTIAN** OF THEM.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

THEY'VE **TRIPPED** THE FIRE ALARMS. THESE DOORS WON'T CLOSE.

TAKE YOUR BROTHER AND **GO**--I'LL HOLD THEM BACK.

THIS REMINDS ME OF THE '77 RIOT IN SRI LANKA. NOTHING LIKE BEING CHASED BY AN ANGRY MOB TO GET YOUR BLOOD GOING.

BUT THERE'S OVER A **HUNDRED** OF THEM! AND THEY ALL HAVE GUNS!

REBEKAH, DO AS I ASK AND TAKE YOUR BROTHER.

COME **ON,** CHRIS--

NO! YOU WOULD NEVER LEAVE *US* BEHIND!

GO!

YOU WERE *RIGHT,* THOMAS--BUT I WAS TOO UPSET TO LISTEN! I COULD HAVE *ENDED* THIS WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE, BUT INSTEAD I CHOSE TO PUT YOU ALL IN *MORE* DANGER!

BUT YOU DON'T *NEED* TO DO THIS! I'M *NOT* JESUS CHRIST--I'M JUST ANOTHER DUMB, STUPID *TEENAGER* AND I'M NOT *WORTH* THIS SACRIFICE!

I KNOW YOU'RE NOT REALLY JESUS CHRIST.

I'M *ONLY* DOING THIS BECAUSE I PROMISED YER MOM.

YOU'RE LYING.

I LOVE YOU.

KNOCK

TOO BAD THAT YOU'RE THE *WRONG* KIND OF CHRISTIAN.

JESUS is LORD

GOD HATES SCIENCE!

Kill the CLONE

WHUD!

WE COULD HAVE *USED* YOU.

SHOOT DOWN THE ANTI-CHRIST!

BANG! BANG!

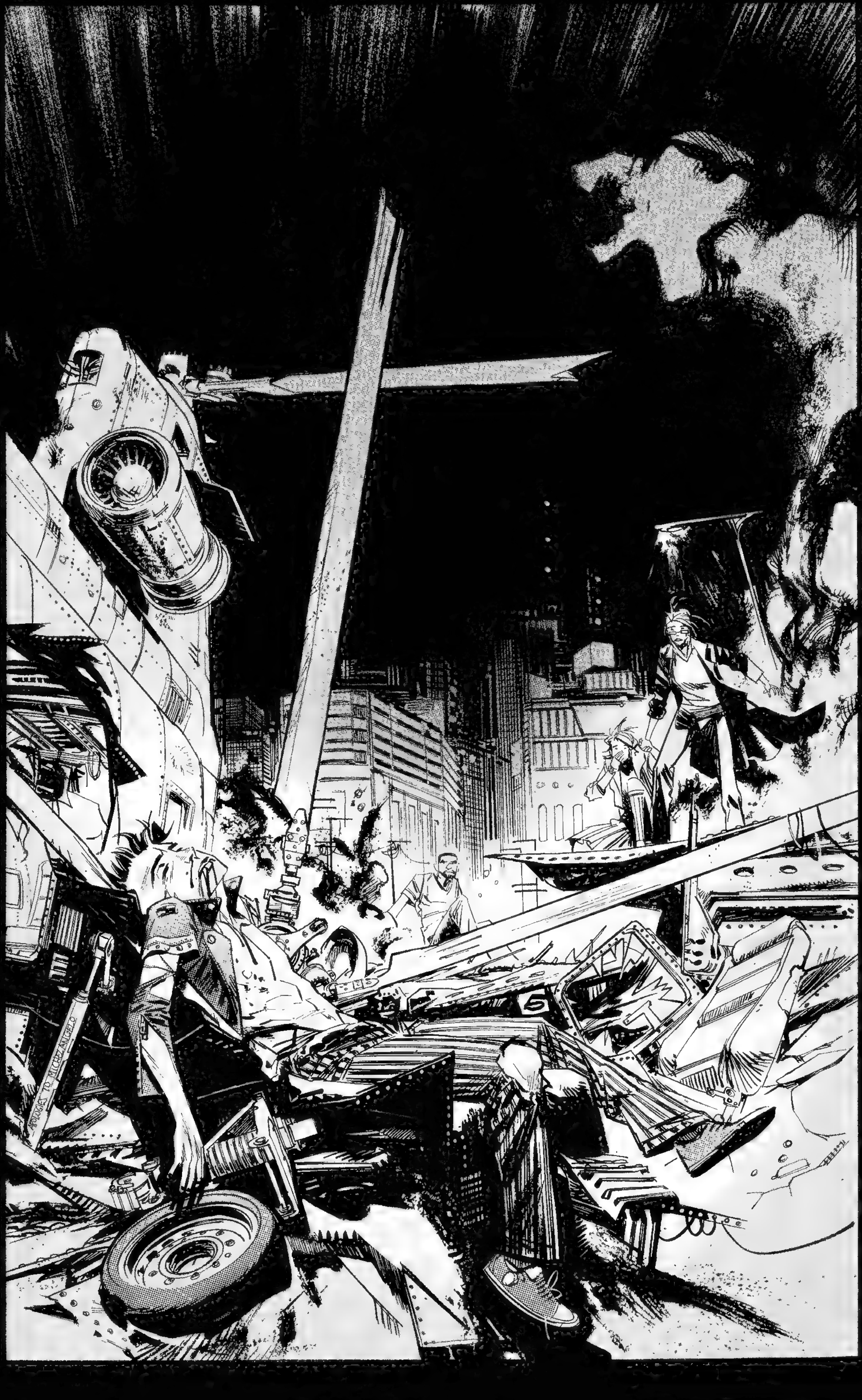
CRUCIFY the CLONE

GOD HATES SCIENCE!

BRAKKA BRAKK-A!

KOOM!

KOOM!


APOLOGIES TO MICHELANGELO

AS THE CREATOR AND PRODUCER OF *THE J2 PROJECT*, I'M PROUD TO SAY I HAD TOTAL CONTROL OVER ***EVERYTHING*** ON THE ISLAND BEFORE THE FIRE.

AND ISN'T IT CONVENIENT THAT THE FIRE OCCURRED ***BEFORE*** THE ***FBI*** BEGAN ITS INVESTIGATION?

AND ISN'T IT TRUE, SIR, THAT ONLY ***YOU*** COULD'VE CREATED SUCH A FIRE, GIVEN THE MANY SAFEGUARDS IN ***J2'S*** DESIGN?

THE FIRE IS ***UNFORTUNATE,*** BUT UPKEEP FELL ONCE THE CLONE LEFT.

AND WHY WOULD I INCINERATE ALL ***J2*** RECORDS THAT COULD ***CLEAR*** ME OF THESE OTHER CHARGES?

YES, LET'S START WITH THE SECOND CHARGE OF ***CHILD ENDANGERMENT.***

OPHIS SPENT A LOT OF MONEY ENSURING THAT ***J2*** WAS THE SAFEST PLACE ON THE PLANET.

PHYSICALLY, THE CHILDREN WERE SAFE. BUT WHAT ABOUT THEIR ***EMOTIONAL*** WELL-BEING?

THAT'S A QUESTION FOR THEIR MOTHER, ***GWEN FAIRLING.***

AND WHAT OF THE ACCUSATION OF ***CRIMINALLY NEGLIGENT HOMICIDE*** IN THE CASE OF MS. FAIRLING?

GWEN'S PASSING BROKE MY HEART, WHICH IS WHY I STARTED THE ***GWEN FAIRLING FUND FOR ALCOHOLIC MOMS*** SHORTLY AFTER.

AND WHAT OF THE ***FELONY-FRAUD*** AND LIES YOU TOLD THE AMERICAN PEOPLE?

I ***NEVER*** LIED.

YOU CLAIMED THE CHILD WAS A CLONE OF JESUS CHRIST, WHICH ACCORDING TO DR. EPSTEIN'S STATEMENT, HE WAS ***NOT.***

I BELIEVE IN MY HEART THAT CHRIS ***WAS*** THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST.

HE WAS BORN OF A VIRGIN, PERFORMED MIRACLES AND REBELLED AGAINST SOCIAL NORMS. DIVISIVE TO BELIEVERS, HE FOUND MANY DISCIPLES AND WAS ***KILLED*** FOR HIS PREACHING.

HOW MUCH MORE CONVINCING DO YOU NEED?

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE STATUE?

SNAP.

NOW IT LOOKS LIKE CHRIS.

HOW ***LONG*** UNTIL YOU'RE DONE REBUILDING?

WITH THE HELP OF CHRIS'S FRIENDS, NOT LONG.

AND ***WHO'S*** THIS?

COKE, OUR NEW ISLAND POLAR BEAR.

COKE, YER MOTHER WAS A BRAVE ANIMAL.

IF YER AS ***BRAVE*** AS SHE, THIS ISLAND WON'T NEED ME.

IT'S STRANGE SEEING SO MANY ***SMILES*** ON ***J2.***

REBEKAH GOT IT AS PART OF THE ***SETTLEMENT*** WITH OPHIS. OF COURSE, I WOULD BE HAPPIER IF SLATE HADN'T GOTTEN OFF SO EASY.

HE'LL BURN IN HELL ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

WHAT'S THIS?

SOMETHING YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT SLATE. ***RECORDED*** THE NIGHT THE KIDS WERE BORN.

HE TOLD ME REBEKAH HAD AN ADOPTION HOME, SO I FOLLOWED HIM TO MAKE SURE.

"I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND WHY HE ALSO TRIED TO ***DROWN*** HER.

THAT'S ENOUGH SEDATIVE TO KILL TWO ADULTS.

HE INJECTED IT UNDER THE TONGUE SO IT WOULD BE HARDER TO FIND IF THERE WAS EVER AN AUTOPSY.

RECORD

sploosh

"I DID WHAT I COULD AFTER SLATE LEFT. AT THAT POINT, I HAD NO DOUBT THAT REBEKAH WAS DEAD.

"THE INJECTION MIXED WITH DROWNING AND HYPOTHERMIA--

"--THE FACT THAT SHE PULLED THROUGH DEFIES SCIENCE.

"I'M TEMPTED TO CALL IT A ***MIRACLE.***"

WHY DIDN'T YEH **TELL** SOMEONE?! YEH KNEW SLATE WAS PSYCHOTIC BEFORE ANY OF US, AND YEH DID **NOTHING?**

I KNOW.

GWEN WOULD BE **ALIVE** RIGHT NOW! SLATE COULD BE ON DEATH ROW!

WHY THE FUCK DIDN'T YEH COME TO ME WITH THIS **YEARS** AGO? I WOULD HAVE TAKEN CARE OF IT!

I DON'T KNOW.

THERE WAS SO MUCH AT STAKE.

HOW WOULD GWEN HAVE EVER **SURVIVED** THE DEATH THREATS WITHOUT THE PROTECTION OF **J2?**

WITHOUT **YOU?**

COMING FORWARD WOULD HAVE MEANT YOU LOSING YER LAB AS WELL.

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, I **SWEAR** TO YOU, THOMAS.

SO **WHY** SHOW ME NOW?

UNLIKE YOU, I DON'T BELIEVE IN AN **AFTERLIFE** WHERE SLATE WILL BURN FOR ETERNITY.

IF THERE'S NO **JUSTICE** NOW, THERE NEVER WILL BE.

TELL ME **HONESTLY**--AFTER ALL THE THINGS YOU'VE SEEN THESE LAST FIFTEEN YEARS...

...DO YOU **STILL** BELIEVE IN GOD? **IS** THERE A HELL FOR PEOPLE LIKE SLATE?

AND WHAT IF YOU'RE WRONG?

THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT STILL BE ON A ***WITCH*** HUNT, BUT FOR NOW, OPHIS IS IN THE CLEAR.

THANK YOU, SIR. I APPRECIATE IT.

MEANWHILE, I'VE HAD SOME IDEAS FOR A ***NEW*** SHOW: WE CLONE MUHAMMAD.

THERE ARE WAY ***MORE*** MUSLIMS THAN THERE ARE CHRISTIANS, SIR, SO ***IMAGINE*** THE VIEWERSHIP.

WE'LL LET **J2** BUZZ DIE DOWN, OF COURSE. GIVE THE VIEWERS A CHANCE TO GRIEVE--

NO! WAIT! THOMAS--

SMASH!

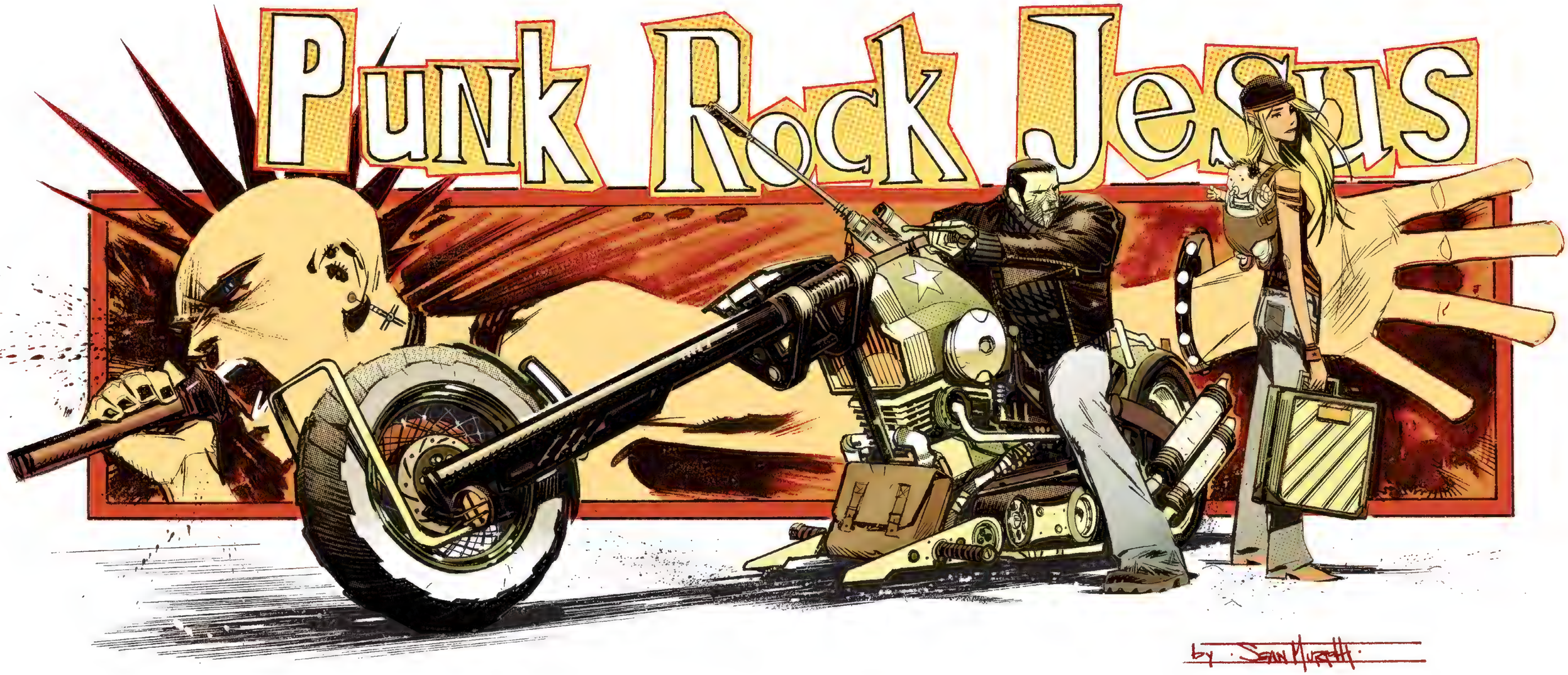
--CAN'T WE WORK ***SOMETHING*** OU--***ERK!***

I--I WANT TO ***HIRE*** YOU FOR A NEW SHOW!

AND I'LL TRY NEVER TO DROWN A CHILD AGAIN!
I PROMISE!

THE END

VOTE



It was 2003 and I was sleeping in a dumpster in Hollywood when I started to think about writing my own stuff.

It wasn't a dirty dumpster, and I wasn't really homeless. My friend and I had just spent five days driving cross country to start new lives on the West Coast. He wanted to be an actor, and I wanted to draw comics while pursuing more lucrative options in the entertainment industry—video games, concept art, whatever. The only thing I had lined up was a four-issue series that I needed to draw for Dark Horse. So while I didn't have a lot of cash on me, I at least had something lined up. All I needed to do was start working.

Of course, I needed an apartment first. LA isn't cheap and we barely had enough for a deposit on an apartment, so instead of wasting money on hotels, we slept on the street and at a few rest stops on the highway. Eventually we saw a dumpster cleaning factory in West Hollywood, decided it was a safe place to stay (far safer than a rest area), and crashed for the night.

Sleeping in a dumpster--even a really clean one—really makes you think. Did my heroes ever have to do this? Did Mike Mignola ever find himself in a tough bind like this? Maybe not in a dumpster, but I'll bet he sacrificed a lot in other ways. I'm sure some guys have had it much worse. To be honest, I wasn't even in that bad a spot—despite being in a dumpster, I did have a $200 page-a-day gig lined up, which is more than most comic artists get today.

But even as a naive 22-year-old artist, I knew that drawing other people's characters wasn't a good long-term plan. Yes, it would get me out of the dumpster, but what about paying off my college? What about health insurance? What about a down payment on a house? What about retirement?

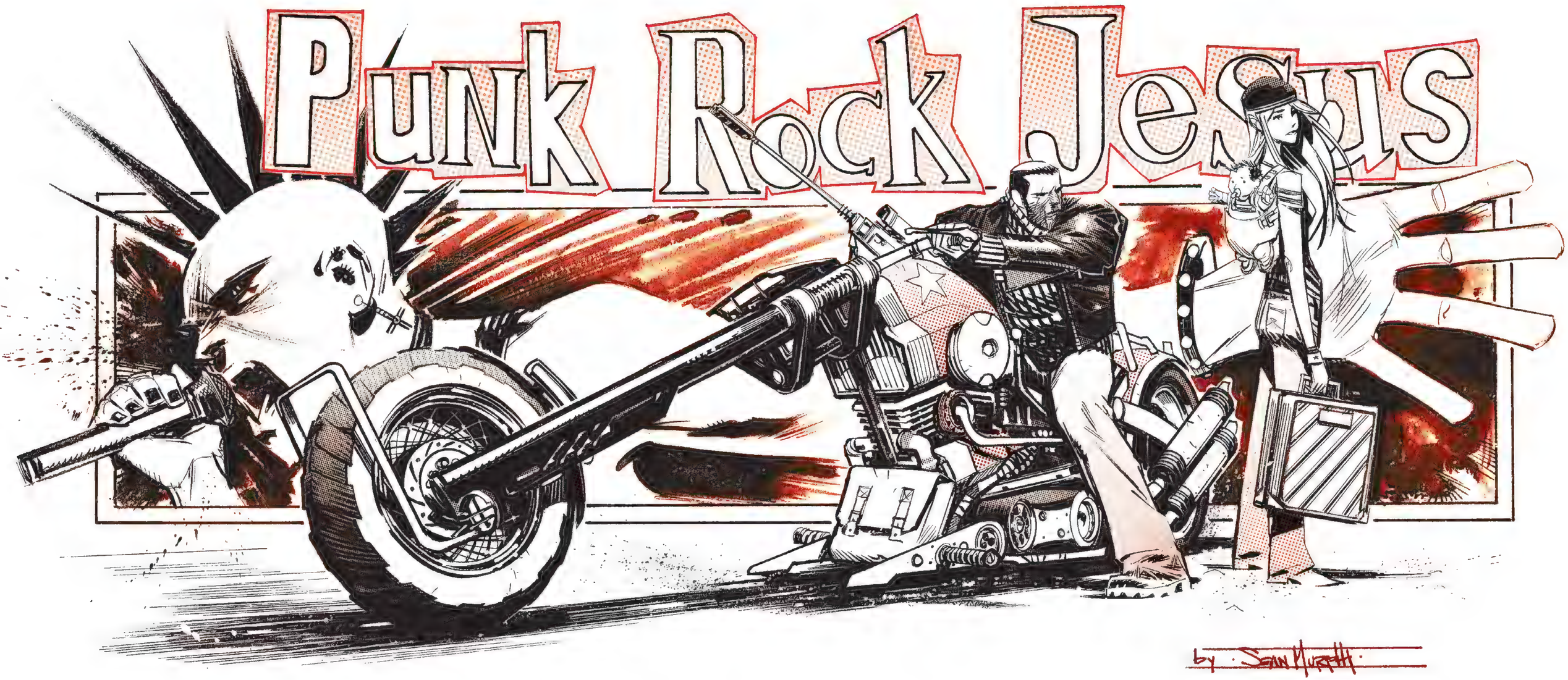
I needed to be like Mike Mignola, I decided. I need to learn how to write my own stuff, not only to try to get it optioned, but also as a way to gain control over my career. I didn't really want to write—it just made sense that I should. And I didn't want to read a bunch of books about writing, but if I was serious about my plan, then I had no choice. Within a year I had a script called Kael, a story about an IRA operative in Belfast.

It was no good. I have notebooks filled with false starts, plot holes, and character arcs that went nowhere. Maybe every writer's first script is destined to be bad, because mine was. I had too much unassimilated information in my brain, and wasn't ready to use it. Worst of all, I basically had the same story every newbie writer has in comics: a big guy with a gun and a bad attitude.

Eventually I put Kael aside and started *Off Road*, a much simpler coming-of-age story that I eventually published through Oni Press in 2004. Afterward, I lived month-to-month on other projects like Batman, GI Joe, Star Trek, and Teen Titans. I even co-created a series with Zach Howard at Dark Horse called *Outer Orbit*. I also got involved with some video game work as well as other tidbits which helped pay the bills. And whenever I had a free moment, I took another stab at my IRA story.

It wasn't until 2006 that I started piecing together *Punk Rock Jesus*.

At some point during that year, I'd read an article on human cloning and began wondering who the first human clone would be. And the answer came immediately: someone would clone Jesus Christ. And then they'd probably turn it into a reality show (the "American Idol" frenzy was in full force back then). As an angry atheist (I left



Catholicism a few years before), I decided that the clone would likely reject American celebrity, see the flaws of the world, become atheist, and escape. The punk rock thing came next, and soon I had a working title, PUNK ROCK JESUS (it was a dumb title, but I kept it for the time being). Best of all, I managed to fold my Kael story into the plot as well—a story about a reformed IRA terrorist was much easier to write as the B story.

I admit, PUNK ROCK JESUS was originally designed to piss off believers. If I'd done the book between 2006 and 2011, it would simply be a one-sided attack on religion that pulled no punches. Lucky for me, I had a lot of delays during that time—all the DC titles that I'm now known for: HELLBLAZER, JOE THE BARBARIAN, and AMERICAN VAMPIRE. I've had a lot of time to calm down, grow older and learn about diplomacy. I'm sure my wife's influence had a lot to do with this.

When Joe was finished, I began talking to DC about PUNK ROCK JESUS. Vertigo wanted to do it, but they suggested breaking my 200 page OGN into six issues of thirty-two pages each. My editor Karen Berger went through the script and found natural breaking points in the story where we could end each issue—this wasn't easy, because I wrote the script in a prose/screenplay style, and not the normal comic book format. But I was happy to break it up into issues for Vertigo if that's what Karen wanted.

Karen Berger was a huge part of making the book better. She helped me develop better female characters, which has balanced the book and made it more inclusive to female readers, a big part of Vertigo's appeal.

The big surprise to me was that DC wanted to keep the title. After years of it being called PUNK ROCK JESUS, I'd gotten very fond of the title. But I was prepared for DC to change it for something less... you know. But then I spoke to the marketing department at DC, and this is what I heard: "Let me get this straight: you have a book called PUNK ROCK JESUS and you want to CHANGE the title? No way!"

Is it a silly title? Maybe. But it's the kind of title you'll never forget. And anyone who thinks it should be changed doesn't know shit about marketing.

It's now December 2012 and I've just finished the last page. The buzz of the book has been much better than I expected. And the sales were surprising as well—not a huge hit, but one of the biggest for Vertigo during these past few months. And for an uncolored book, that's great. Even better is when we found out that sales only dipped for issue two, then started climbing—that's almost unheard of.

Thanks to all who helped push the book. A lot of the success has been due to word-of-mouth buzz. And if you're reading this over-priced process book, then that means you're truly a dedicated PUNK ROCK JESUS fan.

Okay—let's get to the fun stuff.

Sean Murphy
Brooklyn 2012

ACT 1 ACT 2

PROVERS · INTRO J2 NEWS · MEETING FOX · SET · CONTROVERSY NEWS · TOM AGREES · ISLAND · EPSTEIN · CONFRONTATION · INJECTION · BIRTH · TWINS · SOCCER BALL · YEAR ONE · DRINKING · PUBLIC SCHOOLS · SECURITY NEWS · GIRLS · FIRED · REVENGE · RESCUE

1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

ACT 2 ACT 3

TRAINING · ESCAPE · DENIAL NEWS · TRACKING · IRA INTRO TRAINING · REVEALED · NEW PLAN · PRJ · SLATE VS JESUS · BUS · BOMBS · NEW TACTICS · DEBATES · BAGHDAD · KIDNAPPED · BURIAL · TRUTH · REDEMPTION · CRASH · TRIAL · FOOTAGE · END

8 9 10 11 12 1 4

THEME: DELUSION LEADS TO CHAOS THROUGH IRRATIONALITY AND IGNORANCE.

LOG LINE: A CATHOLIC BODYGUARD IS HIRED TO PROTECT A CLONE OF JESUS CHRIST IN A MAJOR REALITY SHOW... UNTIL THE CLONE ESCAPES, BECOMES AN ATHEIST AND STARTS A PUNK BAND.

EPSTEIN
TOM } DIALOG FEELS - TOO MUCH MONOLOGUES

SLATE - NOT DEFINED WELL ENOUGH?

TIM -

- TOO MUCH INFO - NOT ENOUGH CHARACTERIZATION
- WHAT DO THEY EACH WANT.

MORE FOLKS

Detroit / others

GROUP GATHERS

- 2 POVs of Tom

8 Tom.

2-3 Targets per scene

+ more space in Jesus

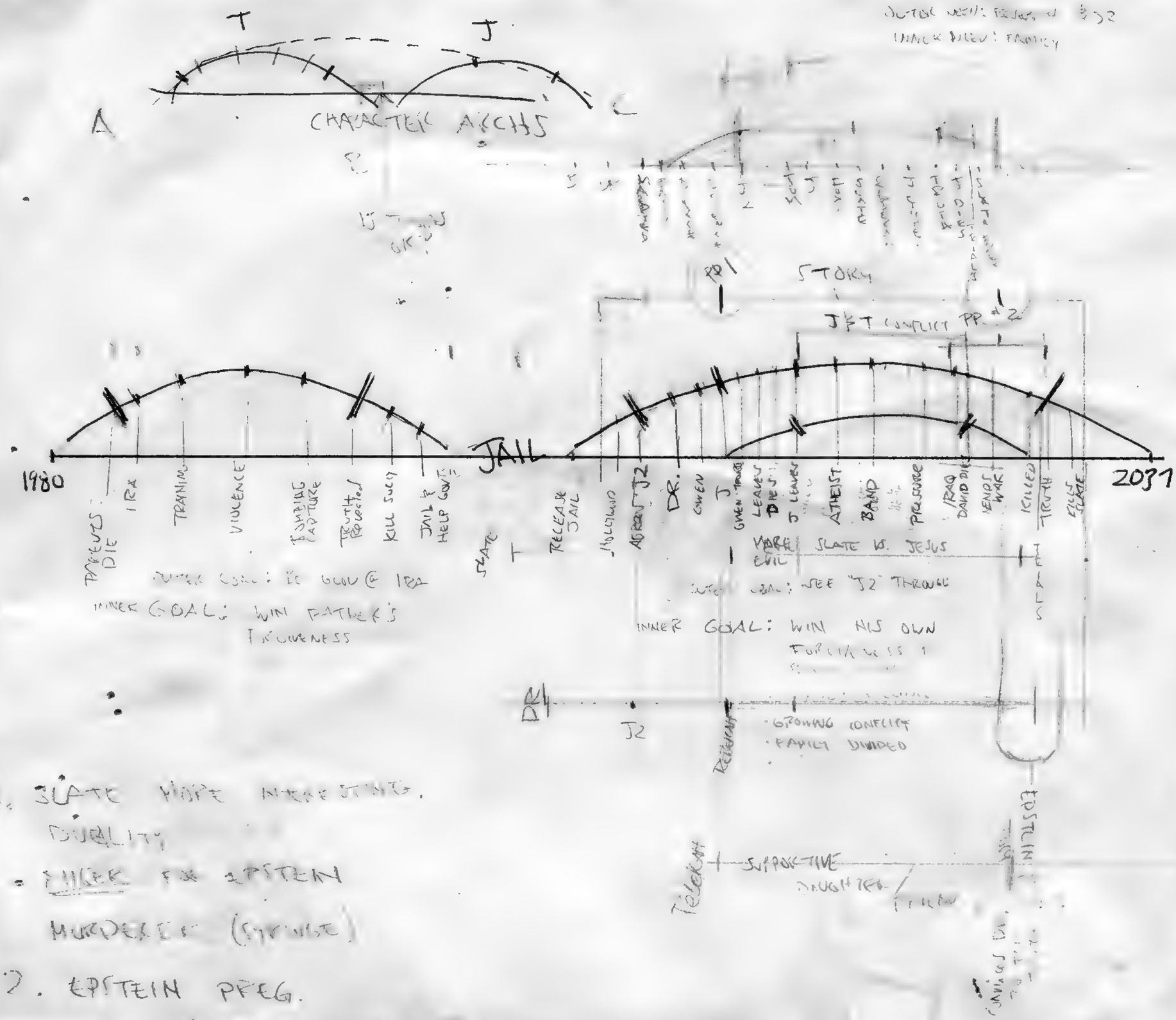
+

10-11

* less on Tom
* Given in bed as protectors show up.
* 24-25 - Debate not watched
* Epstein fear SLATE

LAST panel. - 2?

- not 1 panel pg.



1. SLATE MORE INTERESTING.
   DUALITY
   - KILLER FOR EPSTEIN
   MURDERER (SPRUCE)

2. EPSTEIN PREG.
   - INTERFAITH GOAL CLEAR?

3. TOM ~~OUTER~~ GOAL CLEAR?
   INSTANCY

1. WHY FOCUS ON THE COMPOUND?

2. **LOG LINE**

A CATHOLIC BODY GUARD IS HIRED TO PROTECT A CLONE OF JESUS CHRIST IN A ~~REALITY~~ MAJOR REALITY SHOW — UNTIL THE CLONE BREAKS OUT, BECOMES AN ATHEIST, AND STARTS A PUNK BAND.

TOM SHOULD BE MORE RELIGIOUS, COMMITTED.
MAKE HIM PRAY. GIVE HIM A ROSARY. A CROSS. HIS MIRACLES HELP REDEEM THE FACT THAT HE'S A TERRORIST.

THEME OF PRJ

DILUSIONS ~~CAN'T~~
HAVE CONSEQUENCES VIA IRRATIONAL THINKING

- FAMILY
- ~~THE TRUTH OF LIFE~~ ~~WHAT~~ TRUTH ISN'T ~~IN LIFE ISN'T~~
- FACTS AREN'T THE THINGS WE WANT TO BE TRUE.
- WHAT'S TRUE IN LIFE AREN'T ~~ALWAYS~~ THE THINGS THAT MAKE US FEEL GOOD.

- Delusion leads to irrational thinking. Better to accept the world as it really is.

- STATE WITNESS
ENGLAND

ACT 1 - INTRO TOM

TOM'S PAST — TOM NOW - FIRED
! TOM BAD PAST / ROUGH / CAPABLE / HOLLYWOOD /
? HOW DID HE GET FROM THEN 2 NOW?
WHAT'S HE GONNA DO NOW?

ACT 2 - TOM JOINS J2

INTRO J2 - EPSTEIN - CONTROVERSY - WORLD. NEWS. TOM → NO! - BEGINS TO BE CHANGED. MORE NEWS CONTROVERSY - TOM → YES.

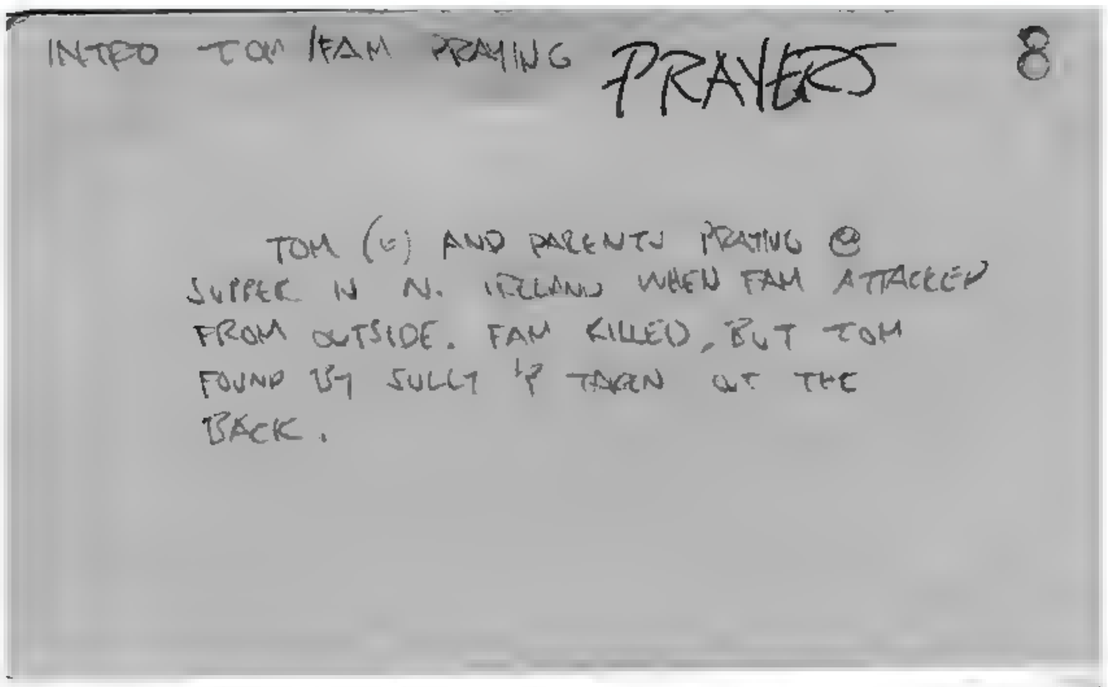
KNOW: SLATE = GOOD SALES MAN, FOX EVIL. TOM RELIGIOUS. ISLAND. MORE IRA.

ACT 3 - J2 Being created.

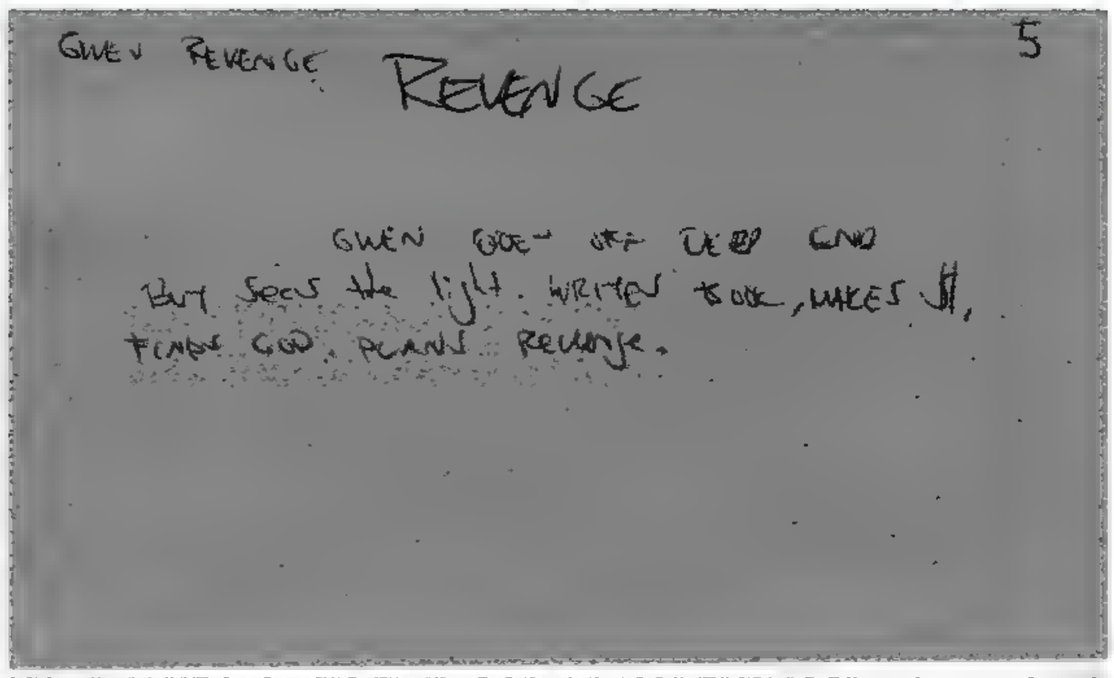
START PLANNING - EPSTEIN PUT, EPSTEIN & TOM. TOM'S SCOPE FOR J2 - GWEN PREGO - DNA ALTERING - J2 COMPLETE - J BURN - TWIN

~~PR #1 - JESU BURN~~

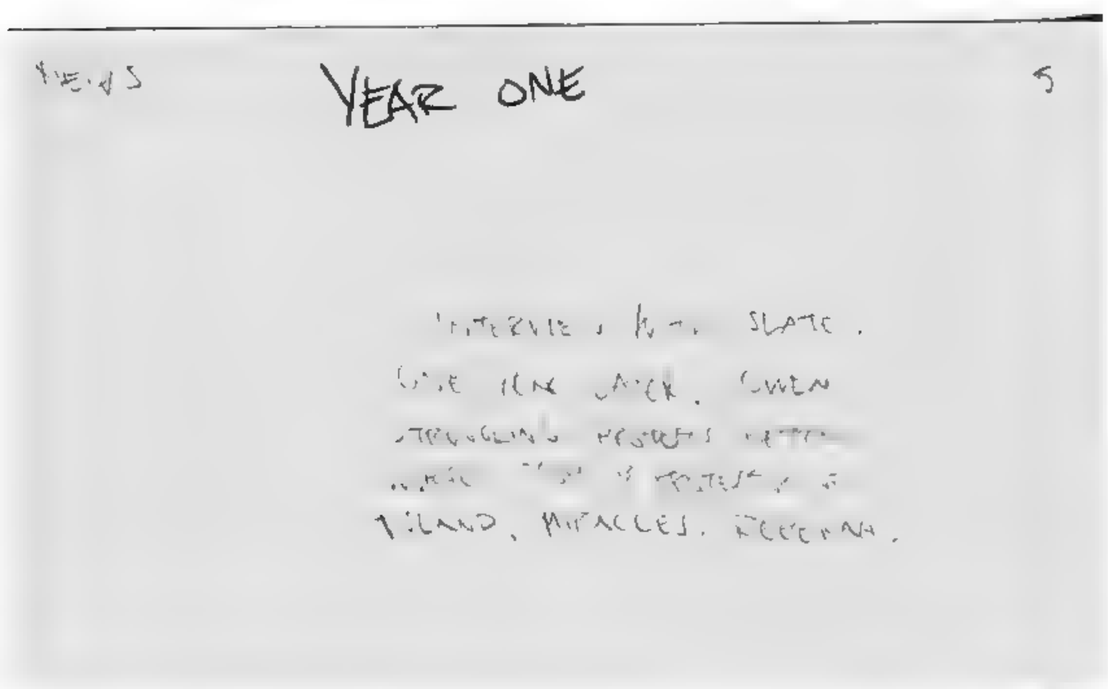
- TOM VISITS SLATE → PITCHED J2 TO
- SAYS NO - LEAVES THEN PROTESTS INSIDE
- MORE YET → FIRED.
- WATCHES DEBATE → FIRE AT FOX.
- GOES TO FOX TO HELP
- AGREES TO HELP SLATE.



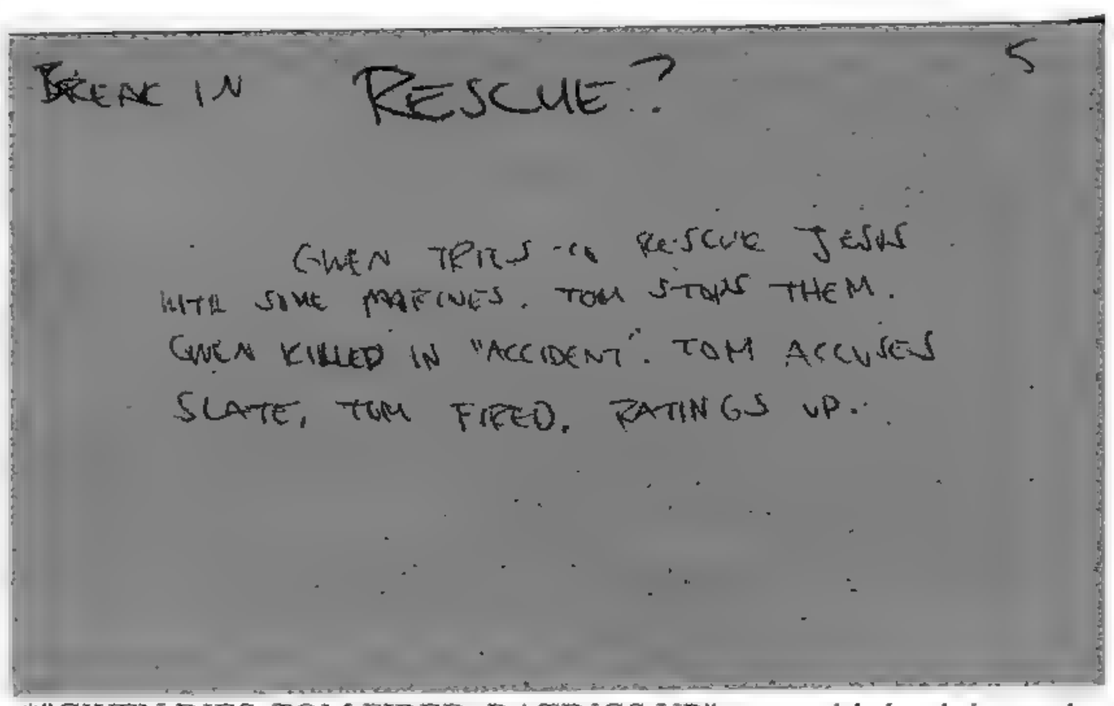
*Many things in Punk Rock Jesus changed over the years, but the opening scene was always very clear to me.



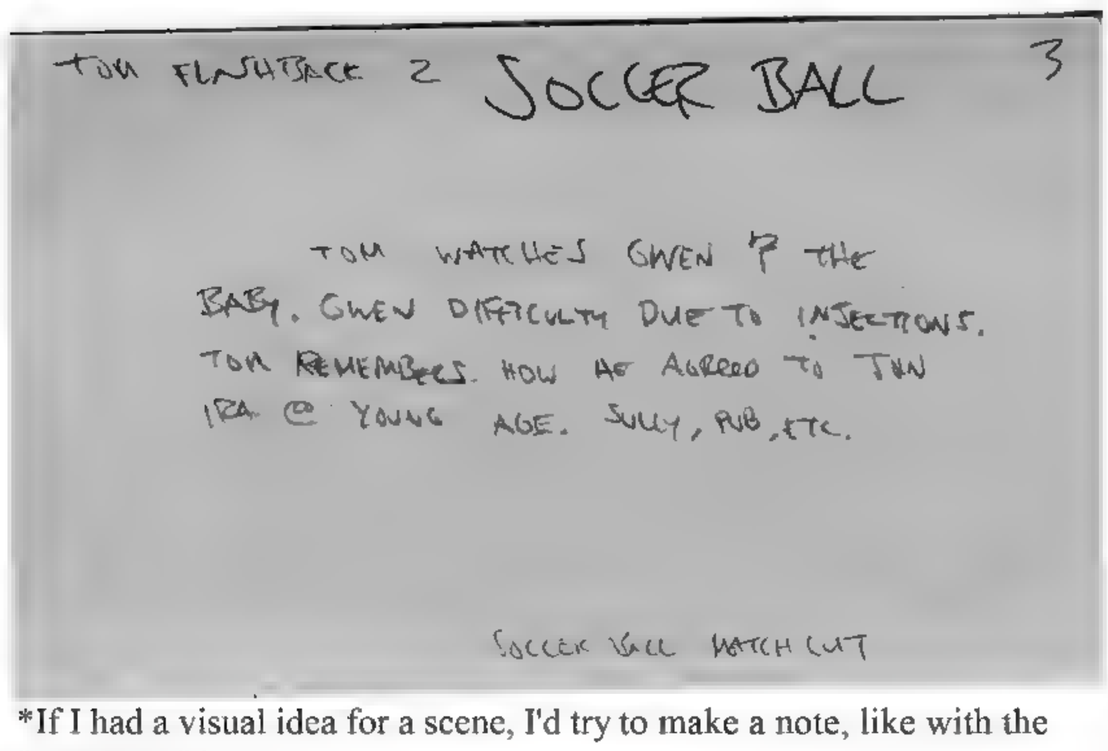
*The "MAKE MONEY, FIND GOD, PLAN REVENGE" makes me laugh.



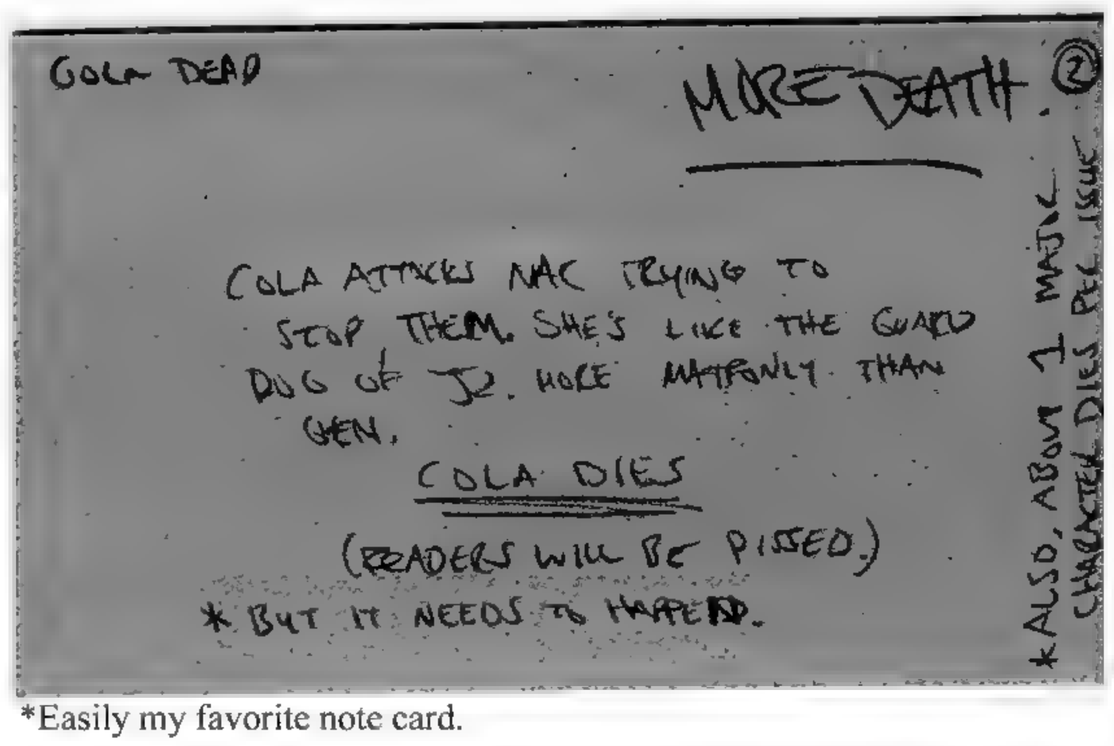
*It felt wrong summarizing horrific events with such simple notes.



*"GWEN DIES, TOM FIRED, RATINGS UP"--wow this book is cruel.



*If I had a visual idea for a scene, I'd try to make a note, like with the "match cut" here.



*Easily my favorite note card.

TRAINING MONTAGE 5

TRAINING

JESUS TAKES CONTROL. STARTS LIFTING WEIGHTS, RUNNING, MUSIC, ANTI ESTABLISHMENT. REPUBLICAN HELPS ACCESS TO DO AWARD SHOW.

U.S. HOLOCAUST, IRAQ, TERRORISM, ETC.
EINSTEIN HELPS HIM LEARN EVOLUTION, ETC.

*This is the note card for the Rocky montage.

ESCAPES. 2

ESCAPES

DECLARES ATHEISM @ GUARD SHOW. ESCAPES.

*I wanted Chris rebelling at a large, public event. Later when I wrote the script, I realized a music award show would be perfect.

JESUS & TOM TALK ABOUT GIRLS 2

GIRLS

TOM TRIES TO HAVE MAN TO MAN WITH JESUS AFTER EINSTEIN REQUESTS IT. TOM ONLY MAN IN HIS LIFE. JESUS STILL DEPRESSED. MENTIONS HOW REAL JESUS WAS VIRGIN, SO HE'LL BE THAT TOO.

*Some scenes are doomed to be cut, like this "heart to heart" between Thomas and Chris. I didn't realize it at the time, but Thomas isn't that type of character. And Chris deciding to be a virgin? With an IQ of 185, you think he'd be smart enough to know better.

CRASH 4

INTERVIEW [illegible] TRY to escape crowd. Helicopter crash. J dies.

*Pretty much says it all.

NEWS 3

OFFICE DEBATES

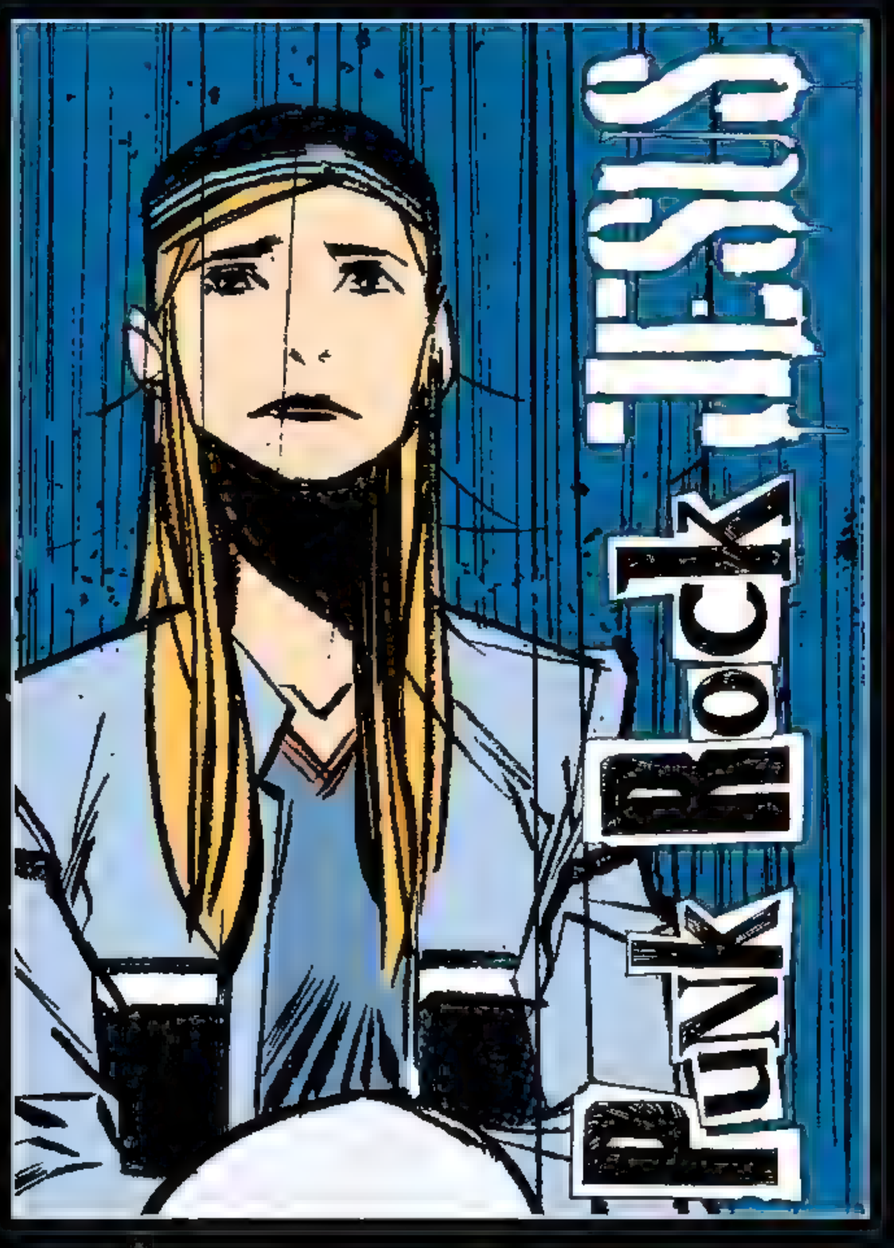
[illegible]

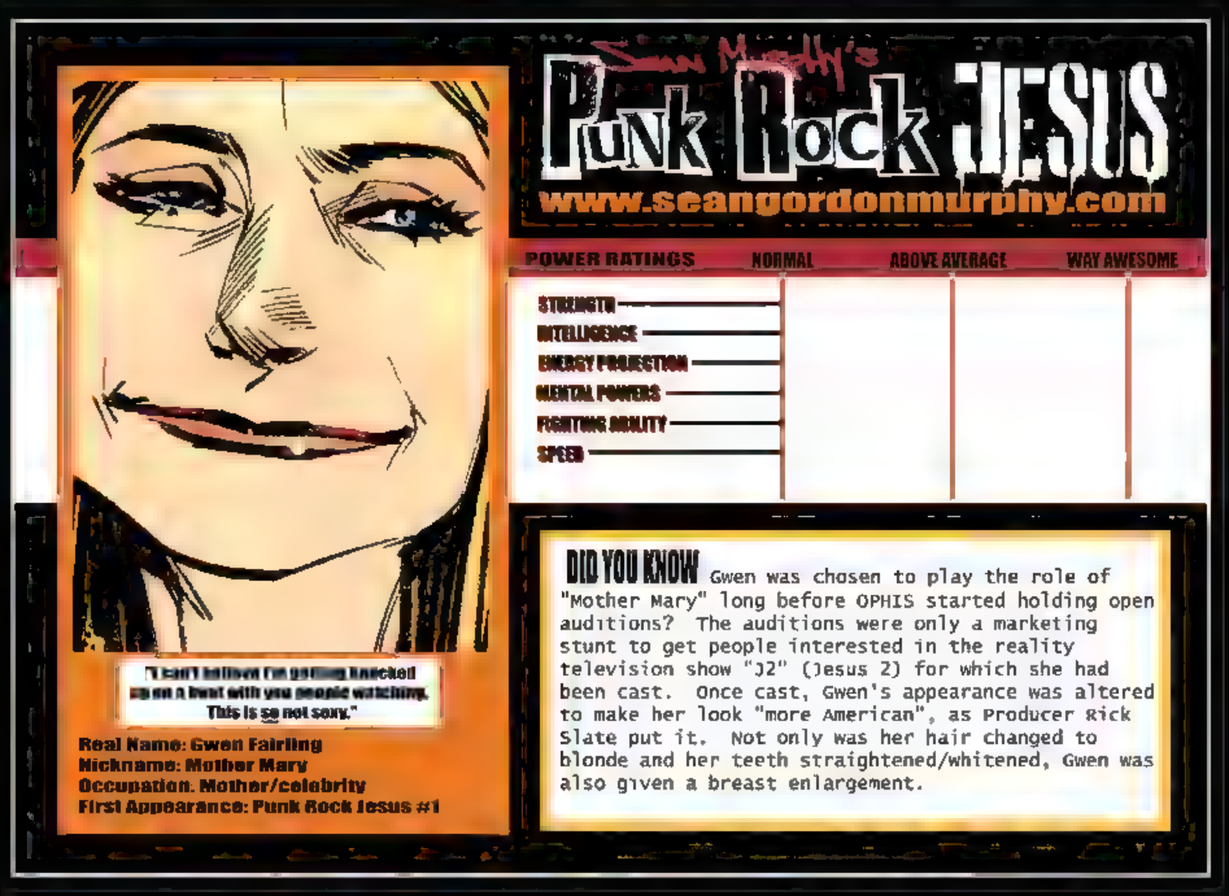
*At one point I had Slate running for President. Yeah...glad I cut that.

END 6

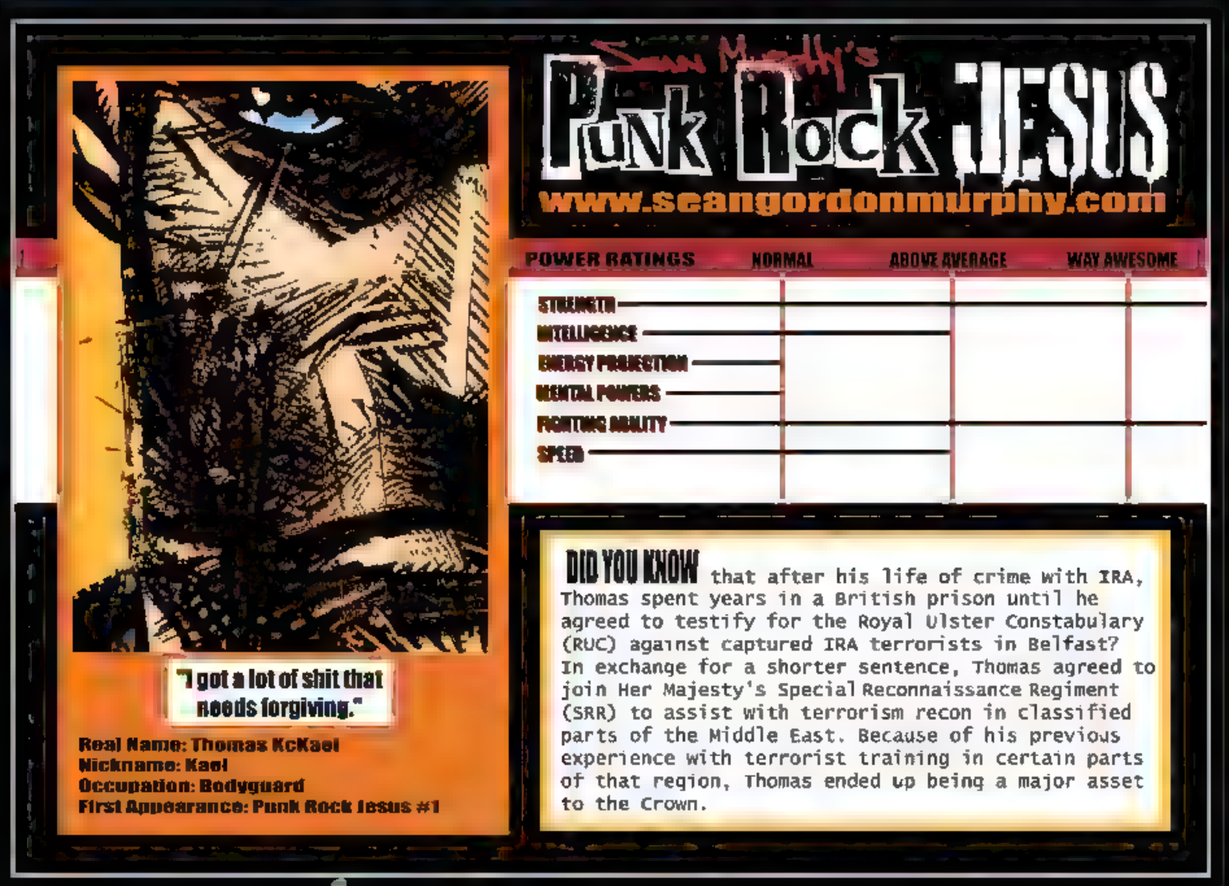
TOM KILLS SLATE.
REALLY VIOLENT & FUCKED UP.
TOM RELIGIOUS STILL?

*As if "kill Slate" wasn't enough, I had to write that it was also going to be violent and fucked up. It must have been late in the day when I wrote this.





To help promote the book, I made trading cards with old-school stats on the backs of them, much like the ones I used to collect when I was a kid. They were as cheap to print as convention fliers, which most people throw away, but because they were trading cards, that meant they were collectibles, and people were less likely to throw them out. Eventually DC paid to help me print up some more. If you have one that doesn't have a Vertigo label on them, it's rare.



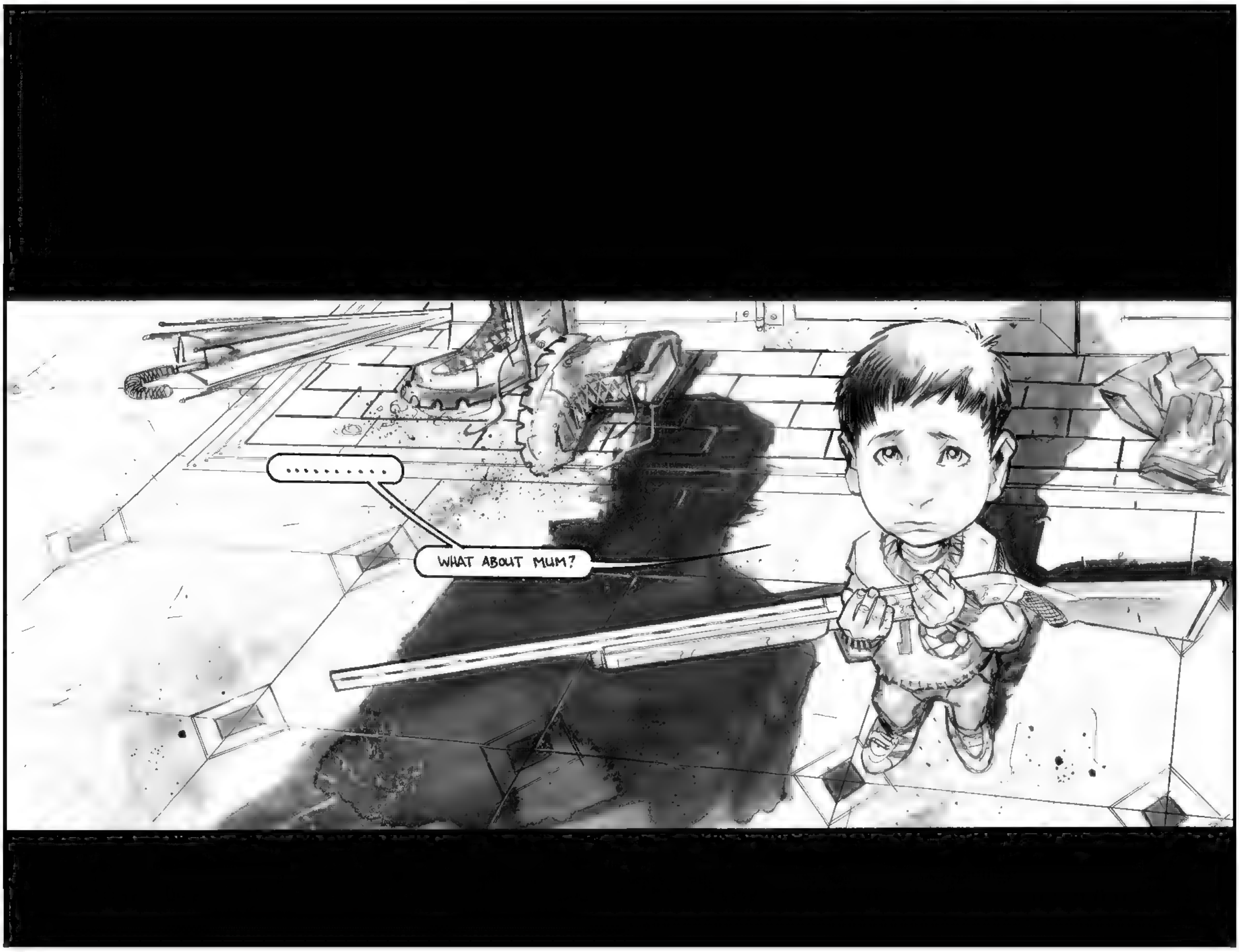
ORIGINAL PITCH MATERIALS

In 2007 I just finished a *Star Trek* book for IDW. I didn't know what my next gig would be, so I started creating the pitch pages for PRJ. I worked with an ink wash in these samples, something I decided against when PRJ became a Vertigo book. It would have been fun, but it took a lot longer to do.

My biggest complaint with these pages is the insane amount of SFX I used. Also, I used the wrong spelling of the word "creak".

TAKE THIS AND GET INTO THE CLOSET, THOMAS.

SHOOT ANYONE WHO TRIES TO BREAK IN.


.....
WHAT ABOUT MUM?

I COUNT THREE ON THE STREET.

MAYBE FOUR. IT'S TOO DARK TO TELL.

TIP.

INSIDE. NOW.

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, NO MATTER WHAT YOU HEAR, THESE DOORS STAY SHUT AND YOU STAY QUIET INSIDE.

WE LOVE YOU, THOMAS.

GOD BLESS.

PAT PAT

SHUT.

JEAN MURETH.. NOV. 28.2007

SHUT.

DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?

THEY'RE RIGHT OUTSIDE THE DOOR.

SSSH...

tip.

BANG!

WHHB!

AHHH!

Bratta-Bratta-Bratta-Bratta

POP

Stomp.

BAM!

No!

CRASH!!!

WHUB!

THOCK.

THOCK.

THOCK.

cough... cough ..gurgle...

creek.

creek.

creek.

creek.

creek.

CREEK.

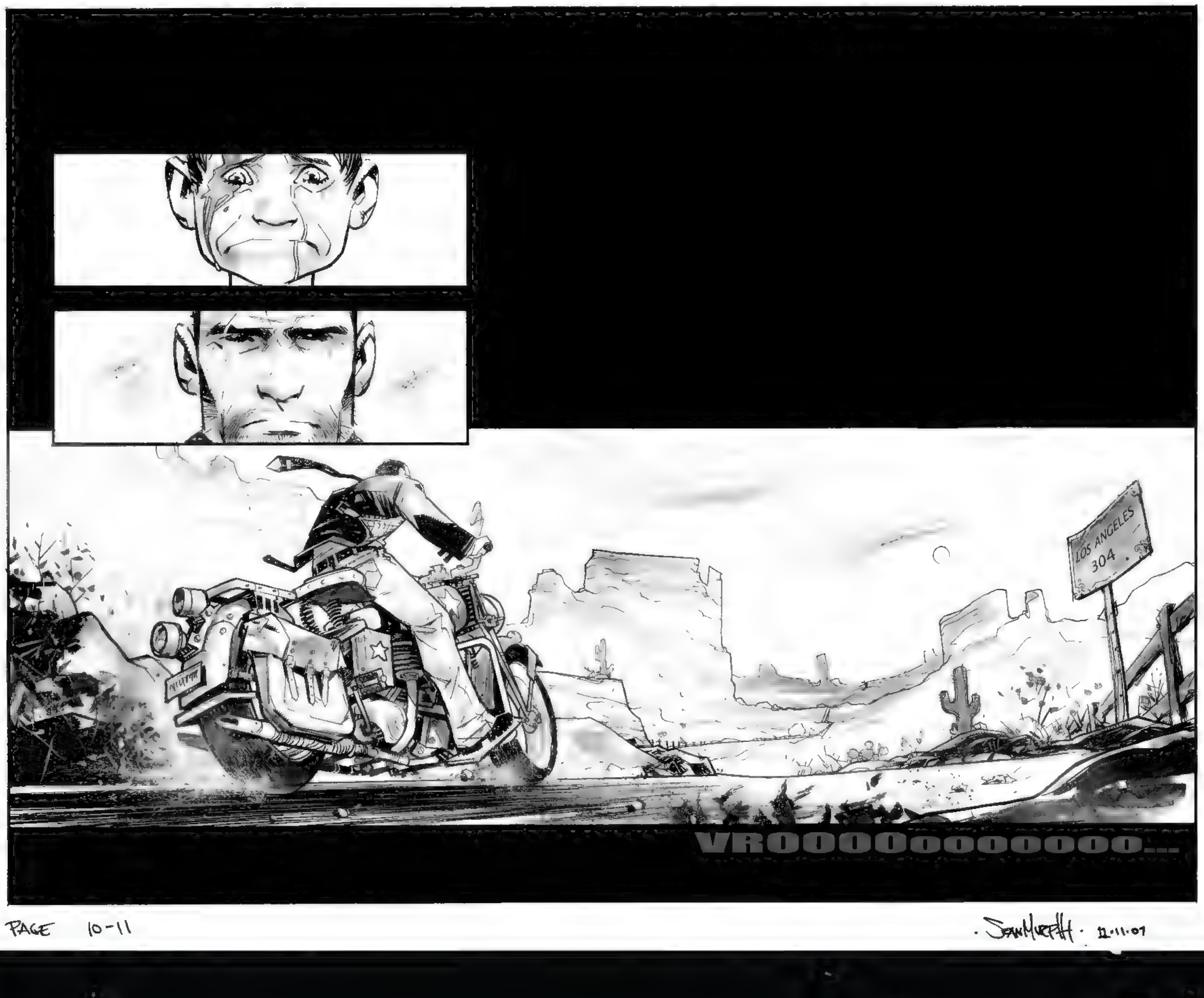
skreeeeeee...

BOOM!

CUT.

PAGE 8

SEAN MURPHY. 12.10.07



PAGE 10-11

· JOHN MURPHY · 12.11.07

LIVE

the Boiler Room with DON BAKER

3:27a PT

ANOTHER CHRIST

STOP THIS ABOMINATION

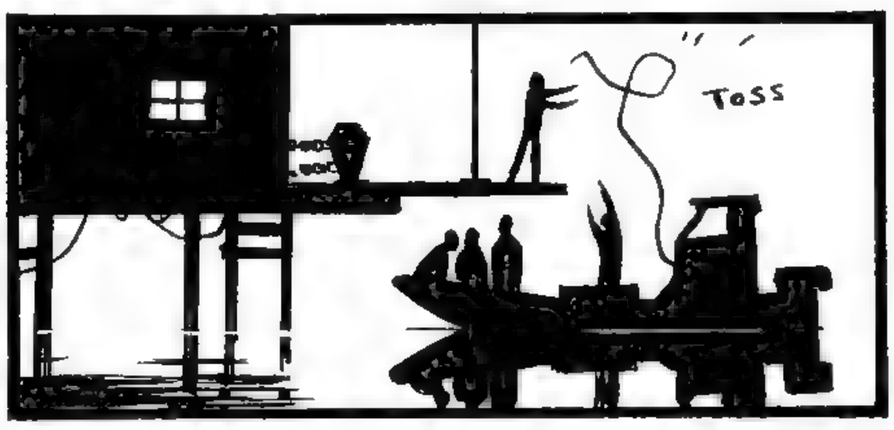
the J2 ENTRANCE open call the J2

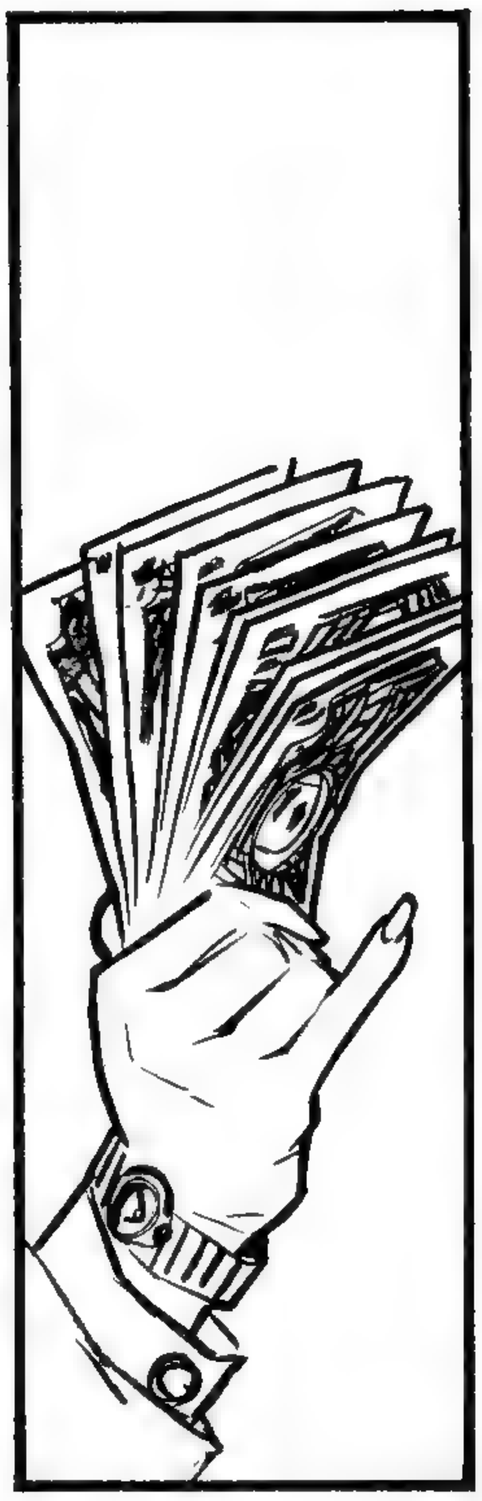
ONLY ONE GOD

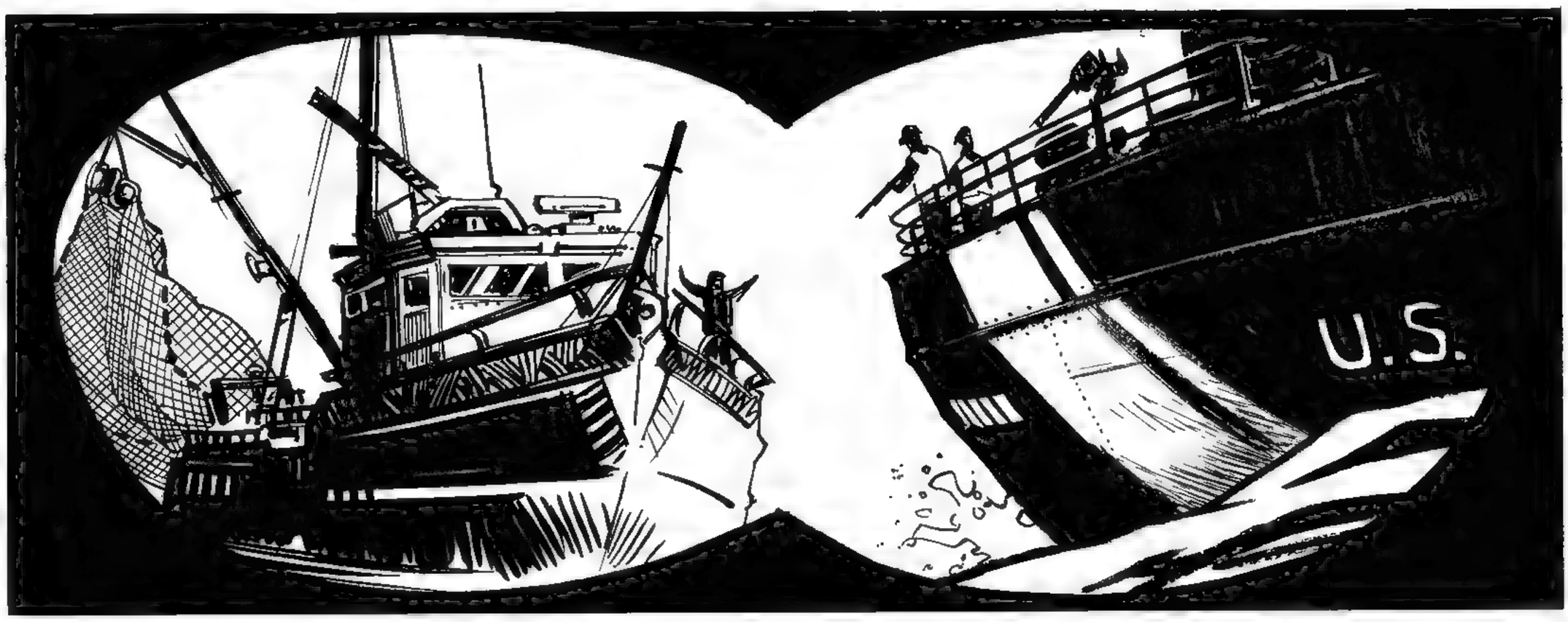
POLICE

POLICE

I drew these pages in 2006 when I was trying to write an IRA story about Thomas.
The story never worked out, so I folded it into PRJ by making Thomas the ex-IRA bodyguard.





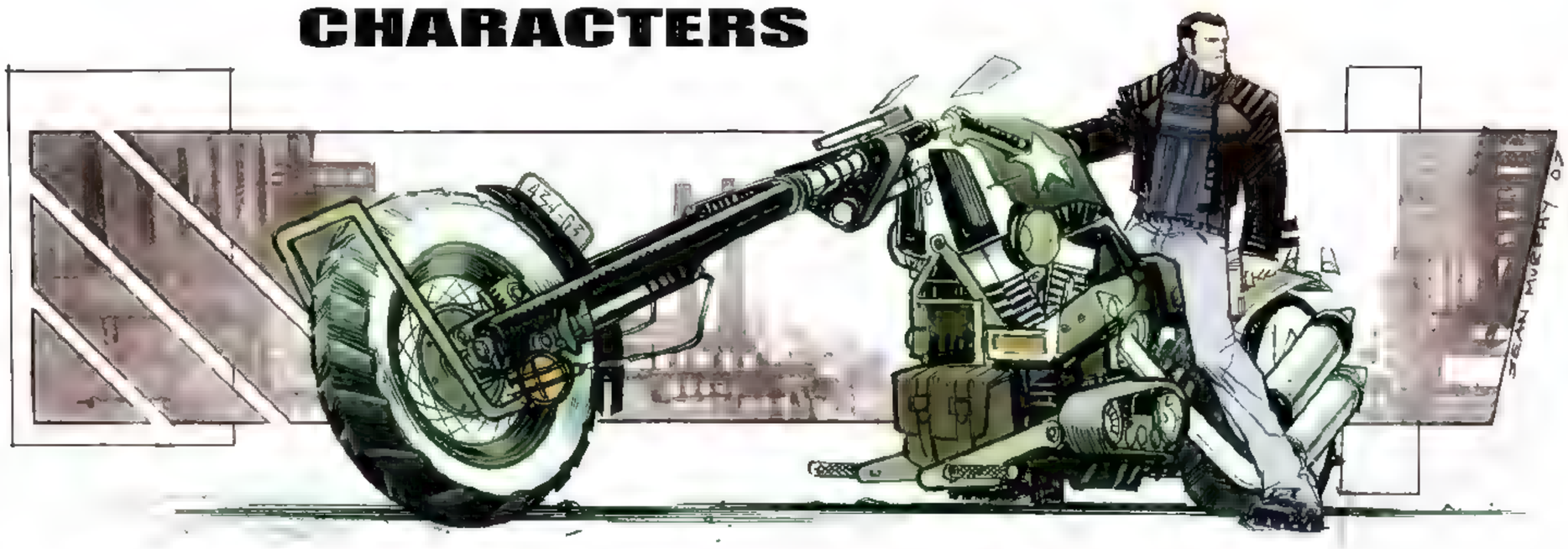

U.S.

U.S. COAST

BALLZ

COAST
GUARD

CHARACTERS



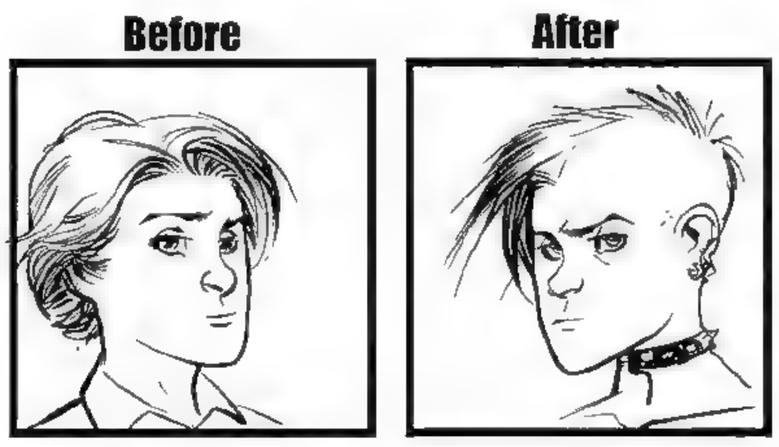
to name a few...

GWEN FAIRLING

Born Debbie Keats, Gwen's name is changed when ABC hires her to play the role of Mother Mary in their new reality show, The J2 Project (Jesus 2). Using sophisticated scientific procedures created by Dr. Epstein, ABC injects Gwen with the Jesus DNA that they took from the Shroud of Turin. Gwen, only 19 at the time, was chosen for her "girl next door" appeal that viewers would likely enjoy. But in order to enhance her look, ABC insists on making her blonde and giving her breast implants when executives become worried that she doesn't look American enough.

After giving birth, the 24-hour show begins and Gwen isn't allowed to leave the J2 Compound because of security risks. As the years pass, Gwen becomes more reclusive and disobedient toward the cameras. After many escape attempts, ABC finally kicks her off the show and cuts her off from her son.

After a few years of being lost in the Hollywood drug scene, Gwen resurfaces after having been visited by an angel who told her to get her act together (or so she claims). She starts a media war against ABC for custody of her now 15-year-old son. When that doesn't work, she attempts to break him out herself but is killed in the process. Thomas, the bodyguard and security engineer, suspects that her death wasn't an accident.



JESUS

Jesus is born exactly on 12am Christmas morning, a time pre determined by ABC and Dr. Epstein.

His life is a swarm of controversy. Politicians, despite the separation of church and state, are afraid that the clone is too popular and will one day become the US President. Scientists are in a constant debate over whether or not it's possible he's Jesus and that the blood on the Shroud was blood and not paint. Religious leaders see him as an abomination regardless of their denominations. But the average television watcher can't get enough of him. The ratings soar. Each day ABC cashes in on advertising that beats out the Superbowl.

But when his mother is killed, the clone turns from America's Prince William into an angry adolescent. When he's finally had enough, Jesus runs away and starts a punk rock band, The Flack Jackets, and decides that he's an atheist. From then on it becomes a media war between Jesus, ABC, and Thomas McKael, his loyal bodyguard who's caught in the middle.

THOMAS MCKAEL

As the main character, Thomas bares witness to the 16-year epic of Jesus' life.

In the past, Thomas was a terrorist working for the Irish Republican Army in Belfast. He believed heavily in The Cause and its mantra (which justified being a murdered while also being a Catholic). But his career as one of their most brutal enforcers ended when he discoversed that Sully, his uncle, surrogate father and fellow IRA operative, was responsible for killing both of his parents. Thomas lost control and killed off his entire ASU (Active Service Unit) to turn himself into the police, hoping to one day cleans himself of his sins.

After paying his debt to society, Thomas uses his knowledge to become a successful bodyguard and security engineer. He jumps at the chance to work on The J2 Project to create the J2 Complex, a security fortress off the coast of California. On the outside Thomas is awkward and brutal, but on the inside he's still trying to rid himself of his guilt. Secretly he believes that the clone is the real Jesus Christ and he'll be damned if anyone is going to put Him in danger.

DR EPSTEIN

Dr. Epstein spent 5 years trying to clone extinct plant species in the rainforests, then spent another 10 trying to repopulate polar bears in the arctic after the ice caps started melting.

Not much of a religious man, Epstein feels no qualms about creating another Jesus. The only reason he agrees to be involved with J2 is because ABC promises him funding to continue his research on the side so that he may discover more ways to help save the planet.

Epstein is startled by how much he cares about the clone. Eventually he joins Thomas in trying to make life better for Jesus when things get bad, a battle they constantly lose to ABC and their desire for better ratings. When Jesus escapes, Epstein's composure weakens at the thought of his "son" being in danger.

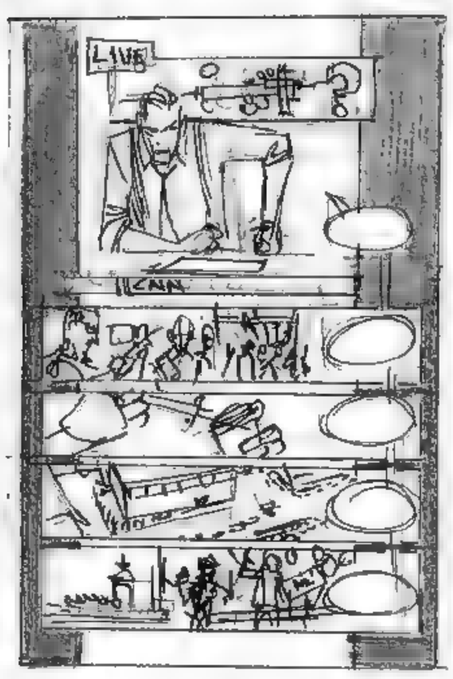
But his secret can set the clone free: the Jesus clone had a twin sister that ABC tried to eliminate. Esptein found her and adopted her in order to keep them together. What will happen when this information is leaked?

DON BAKER

Don Baker is the Larry King of the future. Many of the passing years will be covered quickly and cleanly in with his reporting. Eventually the Jesus clone uses him in fighting the power of ABC by embracing the power of the media

This character sheet was in the original pitch material for Vertigo. A lot of it got altered, like Epstein being changed from a man to a woman. My editor felt that there were too many men in the book, so I agreed to make Epstein a female.

Thumbnails of future pages



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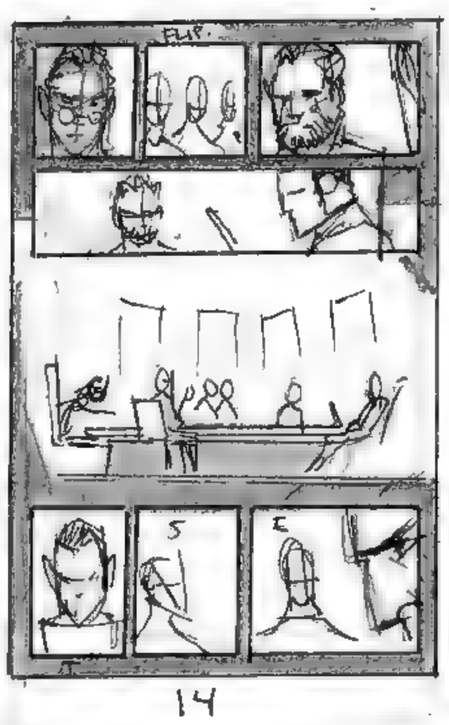
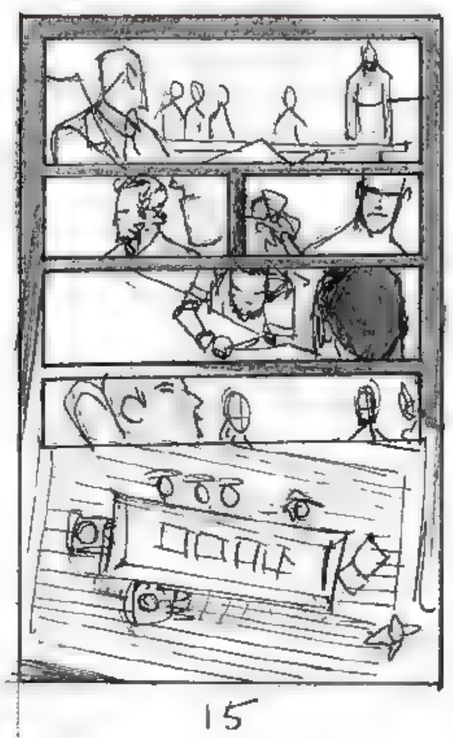


14

ADD
FLOATING
PANELS?



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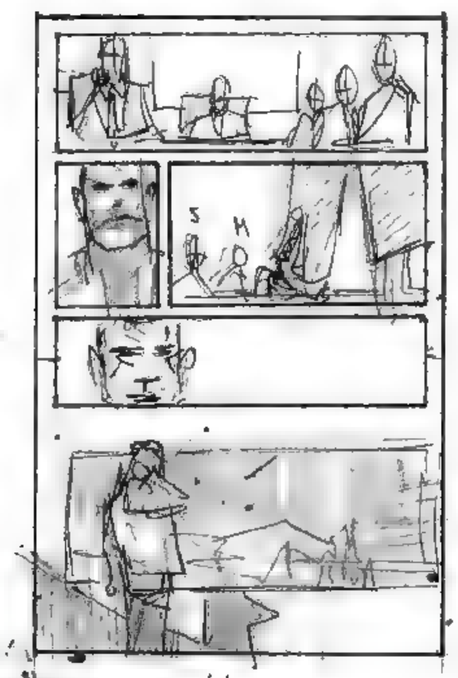

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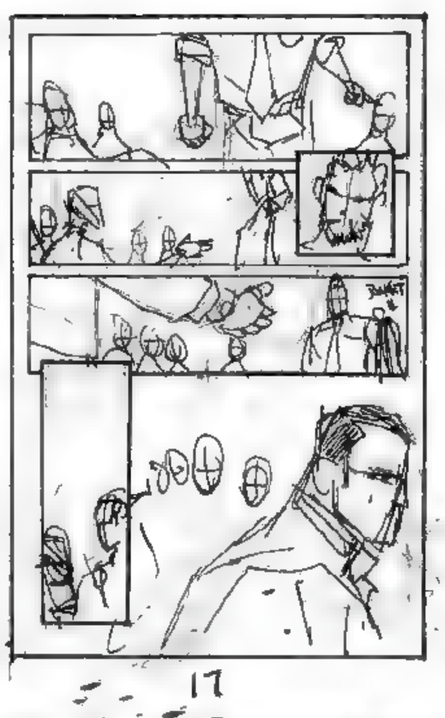

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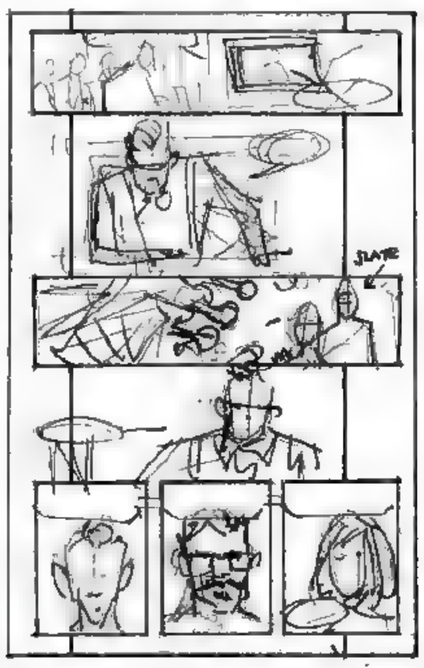

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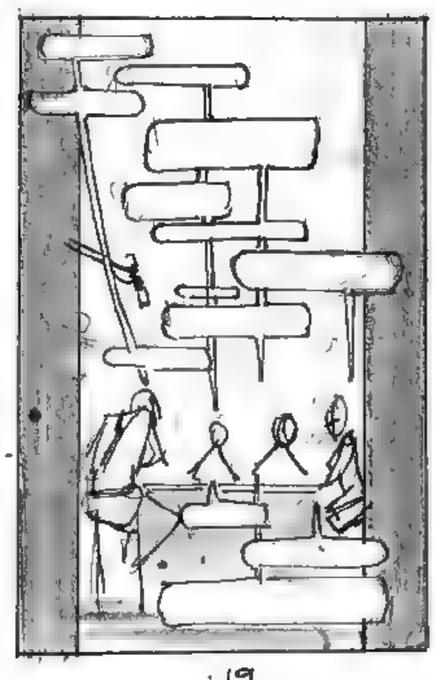


19

These thumbnails are for a scene that ended up being cut, one where Slate offers Thomas a job working for J2. I don't remember much about it, other than Thoma's first answer was "no". I'm glad this wasn't included—it might have been neat to see, but its inclusion would delay the second act of the story too much.

Punk Rock

Jesus

Created by ABC for a reality show, Jesus is a clone of the historical Jesus who is cultivated and bleed on the Shroud of Turin.

After years of being part of and living in front of cameras, Jesus escapes his prison and hits the road. There he starts a punk band to mock people with his messages of American corruption and the media.

FALL 2007

Fall 2007 was my predicted date of release before I signed on to do HELLBLAZER, JOE and AMERICAN VAMPIRE

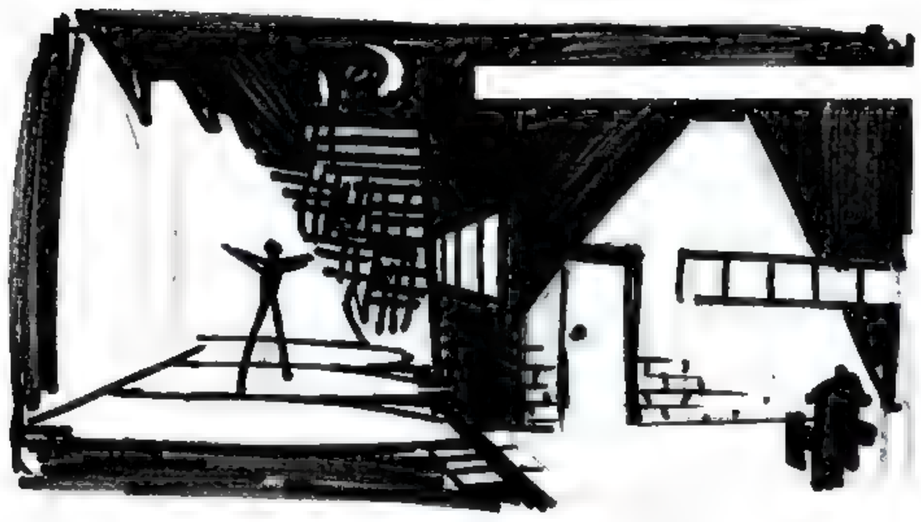
PUNK ROCK JESUS by Sean Murphy

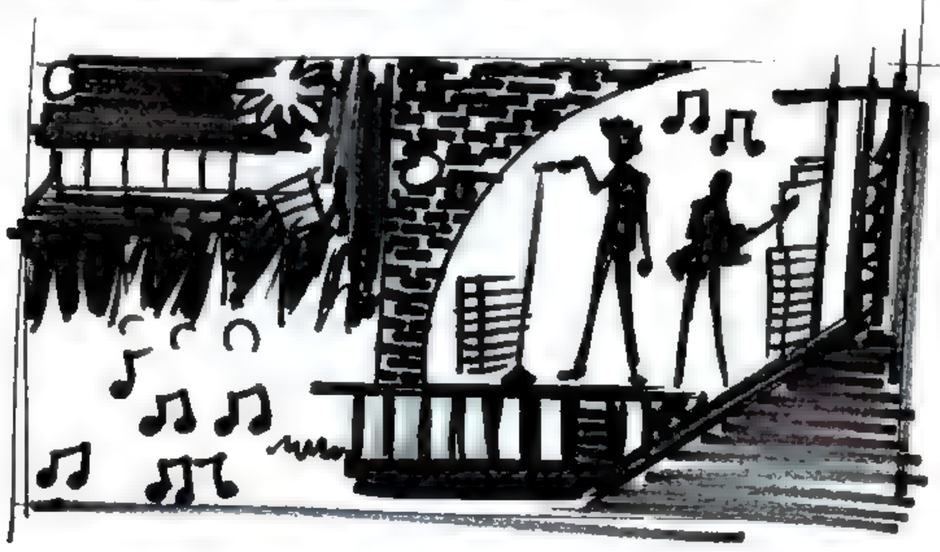
Punk Rock Jesus is about what would happen if a major broadcasting company tried to create a reality show with Jesus Christ by cloning him from the Shroud of Turin.

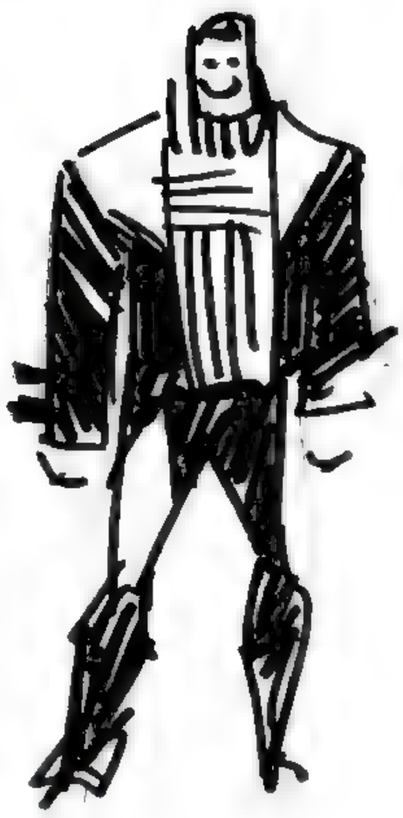
Mayhem ensues between different types of fans: religious people who love/hate the show, angry politicians worried about Jesus running for president one day, and scientists who morally oppose cloning. Eventually the project collapses and the young clone has a breakdown when the show "eliminates" his mother because of ratings. He runs away, tells the world that he's an atheist, and fights the power of ABC by starting a punk band, The Flak Jackets.

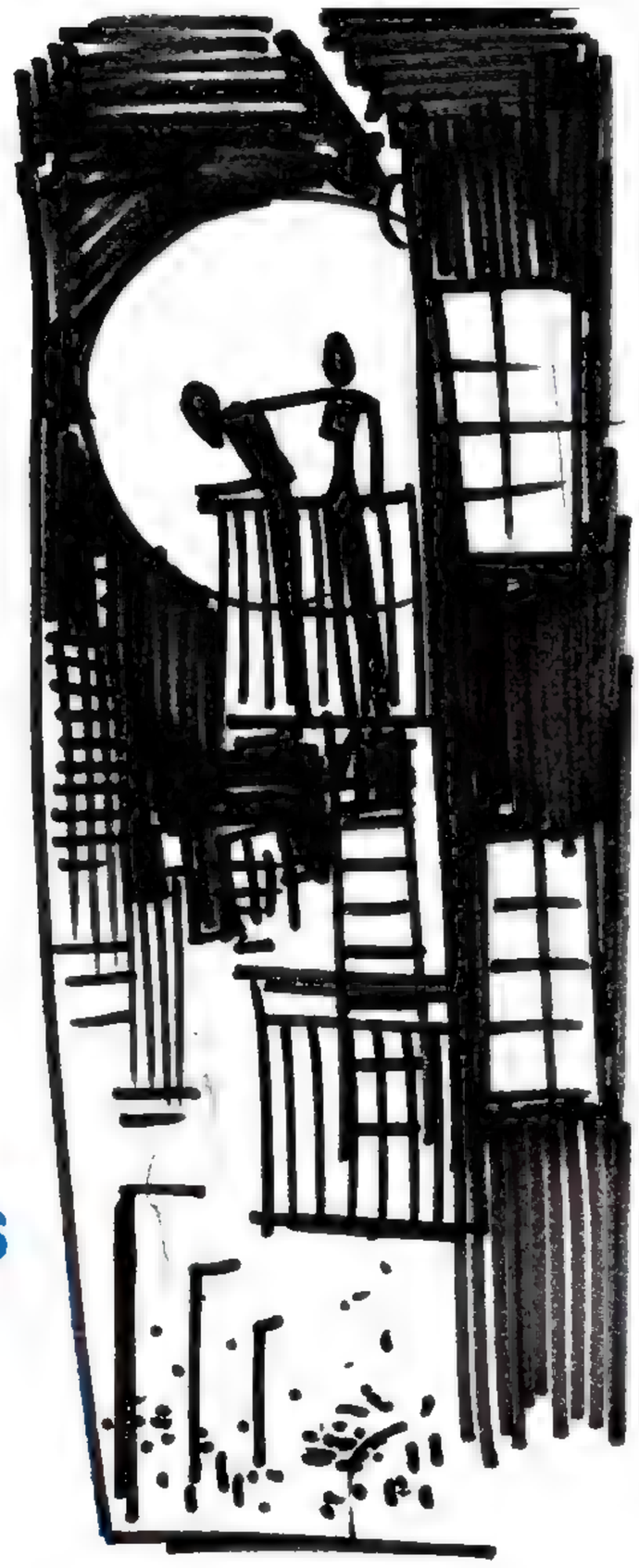
His bodyguard, Thomas McKael, is the witness to the whole epic. As the story unfolds, Thomas is forced to remember his previous life as an IRA terrorist. Jesus' actions force Thomas to reevaluate his convictions, his beliefs in God and what he believes is his destiny.

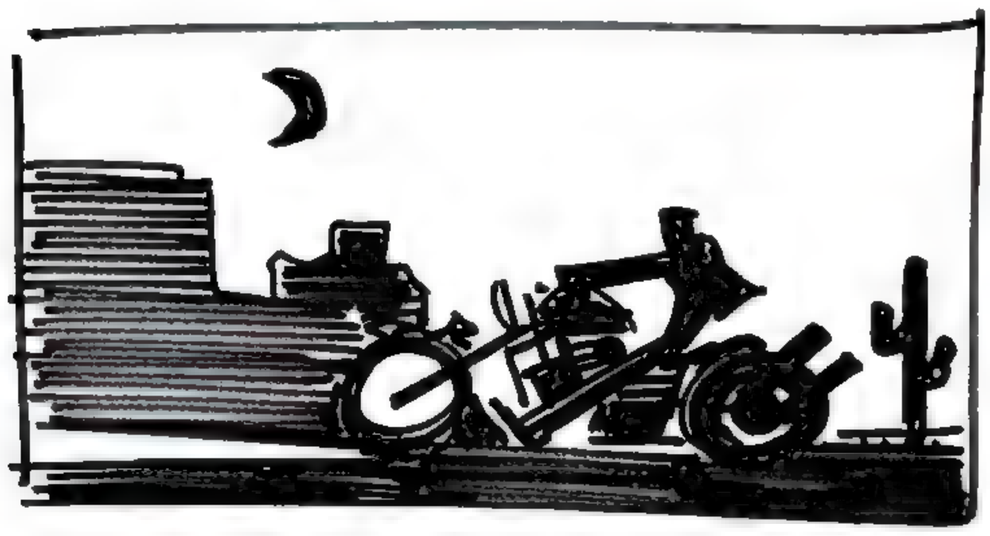
Approximately 150 pages, black and white with washes











Concept backgrounds

Years ago I used ABC as the broadcasting company. This was years before FOX went to the extreme right, of course. Regardless, DC thought it best if I made up a fictional company so I used Ophis, Greek for the word "serpent." Naming things after Greek stuff always makes fiction look smarter.

JESUS

THE FLAK JACKETS

CHARACTERS

SLATE

My model for Rick Slate was Aaron Eckhart from *Thank You for Smoking*. Slate's everything we hate about politics and business: a liar, a manipulator, and ruthless. He knows he's a villian and he loves it. Slate is a throwback to the '80s in America, a time when Reganism ran wild (his collection of 1980s supercars is a symbol of this). His tactics with J2 are the same as America's were with Russia during the Cold War: we can spend our way out of any problem and never have to worry about the consequences.

But as a psychopath, he underestimates people's tolerance for evil.

I'd guess that Rick Slate isn't even his real name—it's likely something he created to help get ahead in the entertainment industry, the same as many actors do. I picked the name "Slate" because of the expression "clean slate—in other words, something that nothing will stick to."

Slate's religion is business, sales, numbers, gambling, and winning. Every word out of his mouth reflects his archtype. For example, when Gwen asks him to let Chris leave J2 to attend public school in exchange for her cooperation, he doesn't say "yes," he says "deal."

Slate was a blast to write because he offered a lot of comic relief. He's so over the top and evil but tries so hard to appear harmless that he often delivers comedy gold without realizing it.

FAVORITE PANEL

Whenever I have Slate wearing his topcoat, he's usually pretending to be something he's not. When he's in front of cameras or lying to people's faces, he's wearing his disguise. In this panel I drew him removing it because he's about to become his true evil self in regard to Gwen

This panel also has one of my favorite lines from the book, when he tells Gwen to relax because "kids fall into pools all the time."

THOMAS

When I first conceived PUNK ROCK JESUS, I assumed Thomas would be much like the Punisher or one of the hundreds of "tough guy" characters in comics. Because PRJ has a lot of lofty subjects within its pages, I figure Thomas would mostly appeal to the action movie crowd—I figured that if readers weren't into the religion and the politics of PRJ, at least they'd like the action.

But Thomas became a lot more than that to many readers. I didn't really understand what I'd accidentally created until I started reading reviews. A few of them even went into detail explaining why Thomas was a more complex and dynamic character than, say, the Punisher. This meant a lot to me.

The trick to writing Thomas came from my first assistant editor on PRJ, Pornsak Pichetshote, when he told me that Thomas should say as little as possible. So that's what I did with him: a few monologues aside, Thomas says as little as possible and with great effect. Mostly he communicates with actions, body language, and his subtle facial expressions.

Whenever I drew him, I always started with an angry face, then I'd tweak the placement of the eyebrows and the angle of the mouth to allow other, subtle emotions to show. So while he's usually scowling in PRJ, there are slightly different types of scowling: the "I feel your pain" scowl, the "why can't you act more like the real Jesus" scowl, and the "I'm focused on ass-kicking right now" scowl. It sounds ridiculous to describe, but I think it's why Thomas's character worked so well.

FAVORITE PANEL

The idea to play up a romance between Thomas and Gwen was my editor's idea. Nothing sexual ever happens between them, but hopefully the readers will sense this tragedy with the characters: in another life, they might have been very happy together.

The scene where she escapes J2 is one of my favorites in the books. Thomas knows she's not going to escape, he knows she's not going to shoot him, and he could easily take the gun away at any second. In this panel he pauses to consider all the pain Gwen is feeling while realizing that there's nothing he can do about it. Another part of him must realize that his commitment to Chris and J2 is only making her struggle worse.

CHRIS

My biggest concern for PUNK ROCK JESUS was that Chris doesn't really show up until issue four. The first half of the series focused on his corrupt upbringing—something that I had to flesh out if readers were going to understand his motivation for becoming a militant atheist. While some might have been anxious for him to "punk out," I thought the questions posed in the first half of the series were some of the most interesting topics in PRJ. For example, should a Jesus clone be taught Christianity? Would he develop a "God complex" if millions of people kept telling him that he was the Son of God? What about puberty? What about dating? The first half of the series could have gone on forever, and I would have been thrilled to write it. But eventually the story had to move forward.

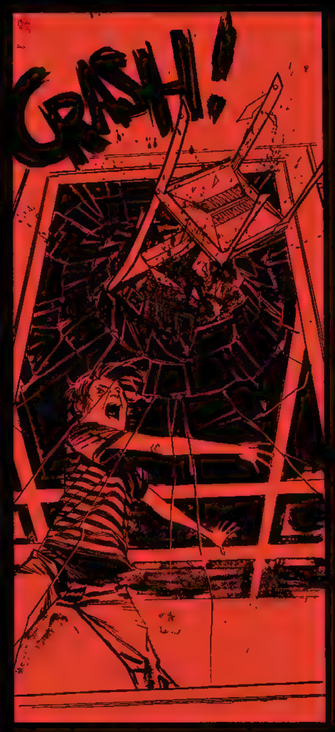
Chris's strongest moment is when he decides to break out. The two-page spread of him jumping rope and listening to punk music is the pinnacle for him (few people caught storytelling transition where the jump rope becomes a wire he's holding in the last panel).

After that, Chris didn't change much—he just became more angry and self-destructive. After the catastrophe in Jerusalem, and right before he dies, I considered having Chris become very remorseful and admitting his militant approach was a mistake. But it seemed clichéd, so instead I have him sticking to his guns. His refusal to admit his mistakes and his comments toward believers is what sets off the angry NAC outside, and quickly leads to his death.

Because Chris didn't have as much depth as some of the other characters, he wasn't always fun to write, although my years of listening to Henry Rollins came in handy when Chris went into his venomous anti-establishment diatribes. Still, I can't help but think that there wasn't something more I could have added to flesh him out better.

FAVORITE PANEL

This panel is my ode to *American History X*. There's a slow motion shot of Ed Norton throwing a cash register through a window, so I swiped it for this shot. In both PRJ and *American History X*, it's the moment when the "point of no return" is visualized.



COLA

The readers' reaction to Cola was huge, as you might expect. But it goes further than that. I killed both Gwen and Cola in the same scene, and all people could talk about was Cola. I asked a few people on Twitter about it, and they made a great point—it's not just that she's just a cuddly pet, she's also more of a mother to the kids than Gwen ever was. While Gwen was going through her own troubles and neglecting Chris, we could always count on Cola to be the loyal protector.

In my eyes, Cola's also a reminder of what's at stake for Epstein and her fight to stop global warming. Most readers associate polar bears with two things: animated Coca-Cola commercials during Christmas, and "stop global warming" commercials showing polar bears running out of arctic sea ice.

So here's the answer to the question I get the most: why did I have to kill Cola? For me, a good writer is willing to put his characters through hell in order to make them grow. Cola heroically dying while trying to save Thomas was something too strong to ignore. While Gwen's death served to show Thomas how evil Slate actually was, Cola's death was symbolizing the end of Chris's childhood innocence.

FAVORITE PANEL

Even though Thomas isn't warm and cuddly, as protectors of the island, he and Cola have a lot in common. While we never see him showing her any affection, I think readers can imagine how much Thomas must respect Cola, especially when she steps in to save his life. For a guy who never shows a lot of emotion, Cola's death is certainly powerful enough to bring it out of him.

After this panel, I have Thomas running into J2 to try to get help (and revenge). I almost deleted the line "Good bear, Cola. I'll send help!" because I didn't think Thomas was the type to talk to animals. But my wife urged me to keep it—she felt that because Cola and Thomas were alone, it was good to show Thomas's softer side.

GWEN

Writing Gwen was a very emotional task. Her name means "happiness" in Welsh, and I wanted her to be as pure and naive as possible in order to make her downfall that much more devastating. After three issues of watching Slate completely abuse her, I was thrilled when she finally became empowered and began helping Chris.

Becoming an alcoholic, stabbing herself in the wrists and refusing to cooperate with the show might seem like useless ways of opposing J2, but given that she's endured 15 years of Slate's abuse, I think readers can forgive her. She's a very tragic character, but in the end she dies a hero, which I love. And her death is what essentially frees Chris from his prison.

The question I get most about Gwen is this: is the angel she saw real? I spent a lot of time designing that angel (I don't get to draw them much), so I think readers were expecting him to come back. But for me, she was having an hallucination based on stress and whatever drugs the doctors gave her. It doesn't matter if the angel is real or not—her reaction to the angel's "calling" is real enough as it finally turns her into the mother she always wanted to be.

FAVORITE PANEL

The connection between her and Thomas was really interesting to me, and I'm glad my editor asked me to play up their subtle romance. This is the panel where she's saying goodbye to Thomas forever, but he doesn't know it yet. In his mind, she would always be at J2 and he would always be her protector. For him, safety means physical protection within the walls of J2. To her, Chris will never be safe if he's emotionally compromised. It's a charged scene with two characters fighting over what's best for Chris, and the visual of the rain really added to the somber tone I was going for.

DAISY MILTON AND THE NAC

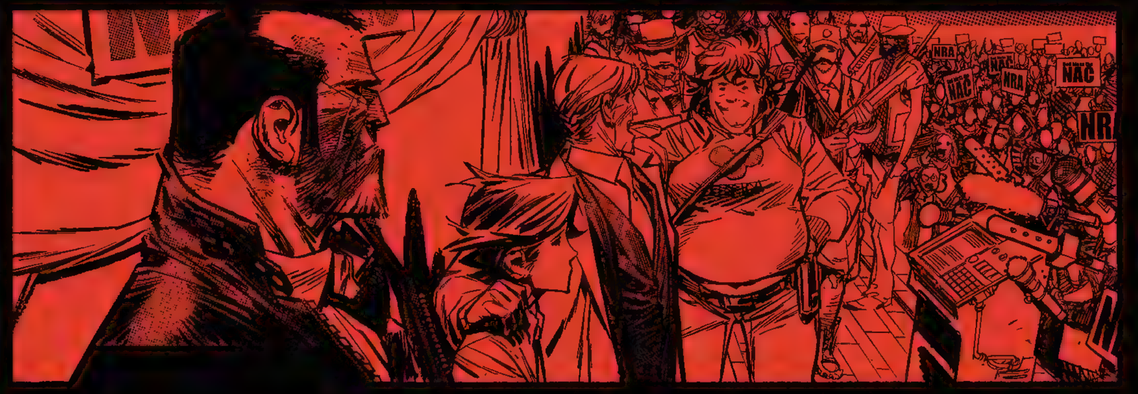
I named Rebekah after my sister, and Thomas after my father. And Daisy used to be named Debbie, after my mother. But right before the book went to print, I had them switch "Debbie" for "Daisy". My mother is a fundamentalist who will never read this book or PUNK ROCK JESUS (she'd likely be part of the NAC), but on the off chance she did, I didn't want to create any more drama with PRJ in my family than I already have.

A lot of people thought the NAC was an unfair caricature of Christians, but if they bothered to read the entire book, they would have found many religious characters in PRJ: Thomas, Gwen, and Tim. Even Rebekah reveals a spiritual side in the end. Obviously not every Christian is a zealot like the NAC, but some of them are, and they make headlines often enough that I think they're fair game when it comes to fiction.

The best part about creating PRJ was getting to know my readers. And I discovered very quickly that I have way more Christian readers than I ever expected. Best of all, they seemed to dislike groups like the NAC as much (if not more) than I do. I've had many lively discussions with Christians coming up to my table at a convention, and the conversations are usually pretty productive. As long as their religion isn't involved in government, against gay rights, women's rights, and anti-evolution, then we've managed to get along.

FAVORITE PANEL

I'm currently writing this on January 31, 2013 and the Newtown shooting is still making headlines as the NRA continues to fight Obama's plan for more gun control. I'm so glad I included the NRA aligning itself with the NAC months before the shooting happened. I also drew a flooded NYC months before Sandy hit the East Coast (a few people online thought I was trying to exploit the events to sell more books, which is impossible because the work was done months earlier). I wanted PRJ to seem real, so having certain things in the book become true helped it feel more legitimate.



TIM

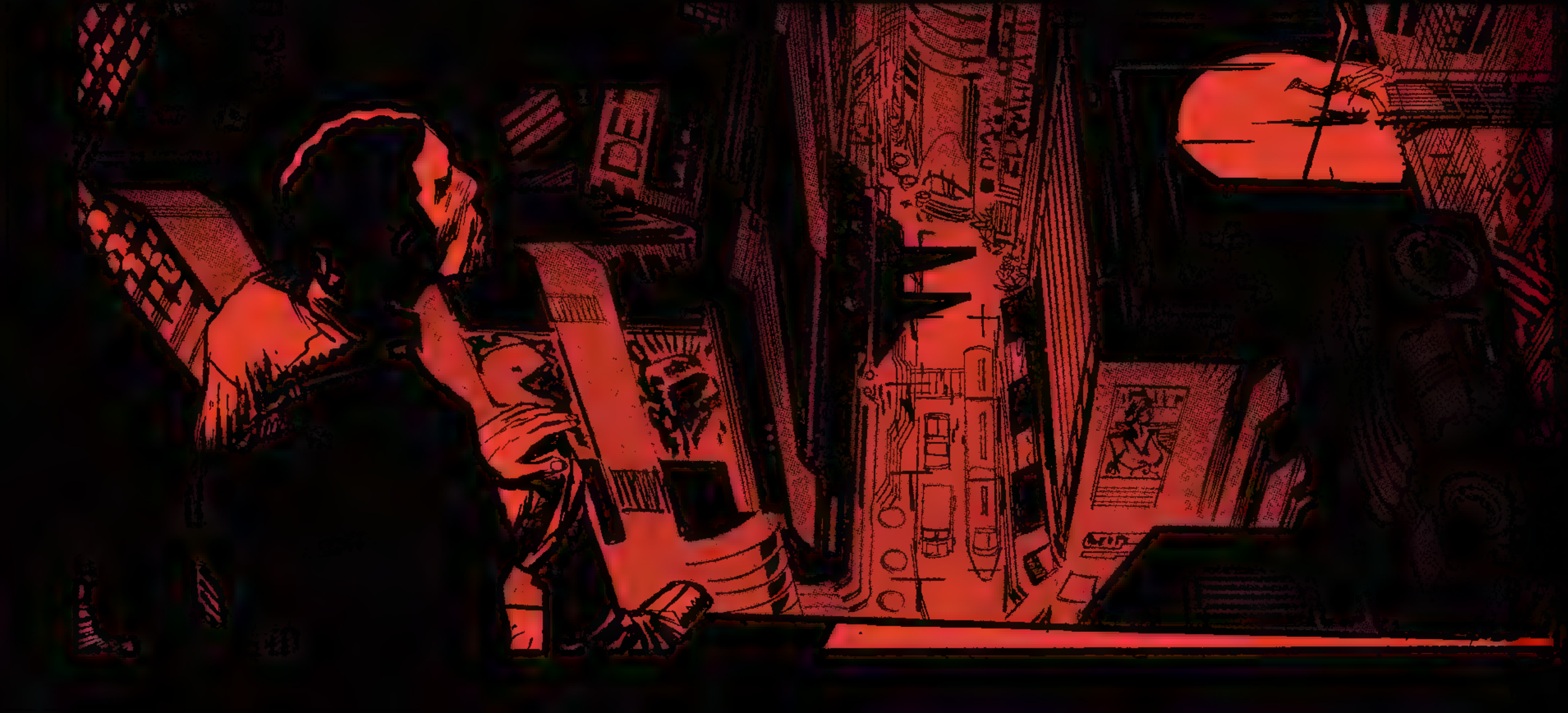
My favorite thing about Tim is that he's the only one not intimidated by Thomas. His banter with other characters (and his dozens of fanboy references) helps lighten the story a lot.

At first I was wary of readers pigeonholing him as the typical Black character who adds comic relief, and while he might be that at times, he also acts as the moral center for some of the other characters. Thomas's rigidity can be a bit much, and Tim helps deflate that. When Gwen needs a friend, Tim shows her support. And when Slate takes things too far, Tim is able to keep his cool and stop Thomas from attacking him. Although he might be the comic relief, Tim's willpower is unbreakable throughout the story while every other character falters at some point.

I also wrote Tim to be loosely Baptist, but it doesn't come up until issue five. Because PRJ runs the risk of becoming too preachy, I made sure to include enough characters who acknowledged spirituality in a healthier way.

FAVORITE PANEL

Tim helps break the rules of J2 a few times during the story, and always when it will benefit the well-being of another character. When Chris escapes from J2, I imagine Tim being relieved that Chris will be free from Slate while also being afraid for his safety. His line "Please don't let us catch you," says a lot, I think.



EPSTEIN

Sarah Epstein's character got cut down the most during the editing process of PUNK ROCK JESUS. While I agreed with editorial on most every point, the decision to save space by reducing Epstein's environmental pursuits was harmful to the character. I love science and did a lot of research to make sure everything (from the name of the algae to the science of cloning) was correct. But DC thought those parts were too dry, and because we needed to find space, Epstein took the hit.

The algae are extremely important to Epstein—it's the only reason why she didn't come clean about Slate until the very end (when it was destroyed in the fire). As PRJ reads now, the algae come across as a cheap plot device. Perhaps if I ever get to add more pages for a hardcover edition, I'll spend some time making Epstein more dynamic by clarifying her inner conflict: save Chris, or save the algae?

Because the first scripts had nothing in them that was "punk rock", I made Epstein more edgy in appearance. While not as decked-out as the Flak Jackets, she does have a lot of piercings and a subtle punk rock T-shirt collection.

FAVORITE PANEL

I'm one of the few artists who enjoys drawing reflections, so when I came across this scene, I wanted to try something with Slate I hadn't seen before—cropping his head but showing his expression in Gwen's blood. The symbolism is obvious, but it worked especially well as it now depicted Slate "surrounding" both Epstein and Gwen. There's a lot more symbolism in this panel, so I'll just leave it at that.

REBEKAH

For someone who got very little face time, Rebekah became one of my favorite characters by the end. Whenever she appeared, however brief, I knew I had to get the most out of her "performance." Her protective attitude toward Chris is clear when she helps him escape J2, but what really defines her is how disapproving she is of his new path with the Flak Jackets.

Once he starts his media war with the Flak Jakets, Rebekah is the only one who can get through to him. But there are only two scenes that illustrate this: when she tells Thomas where to find him, and at the end when she gets Chris to leave Thomas on the rooftop (before the chopper crashes). I added a new scene for the TPB that hopefully fleshes this out even more, one that shows her convincing Chris to meet a religious Make a Wish child backstage. It's a quick scene, but my absolute favorite of the new pages I added to the TPB.

I assumed that most readers would guess that she was Chris' twin sister the whole time. For me, it didn't matter if people guessed it or not, as long as they didn't suspect that Thomas was misled by his uncle for so long.

In the end, Rebekah is more Christ-like than Chris ever was. After the debacle in Jerusalem, Chris is still too stubborn to admit that his militant atheism isn't effective. Not blinded by hate and resentment, Rebekah is free to grasp the "moral" of PRJ that is lost on Chris. Even though he dies shortly after, Chris's legacy lives on through Rebekah. She's the "new and improved" Chris: just as smart, just as physically "perfect", but armed with more tolerance for spirituality and much more measured in her approach.

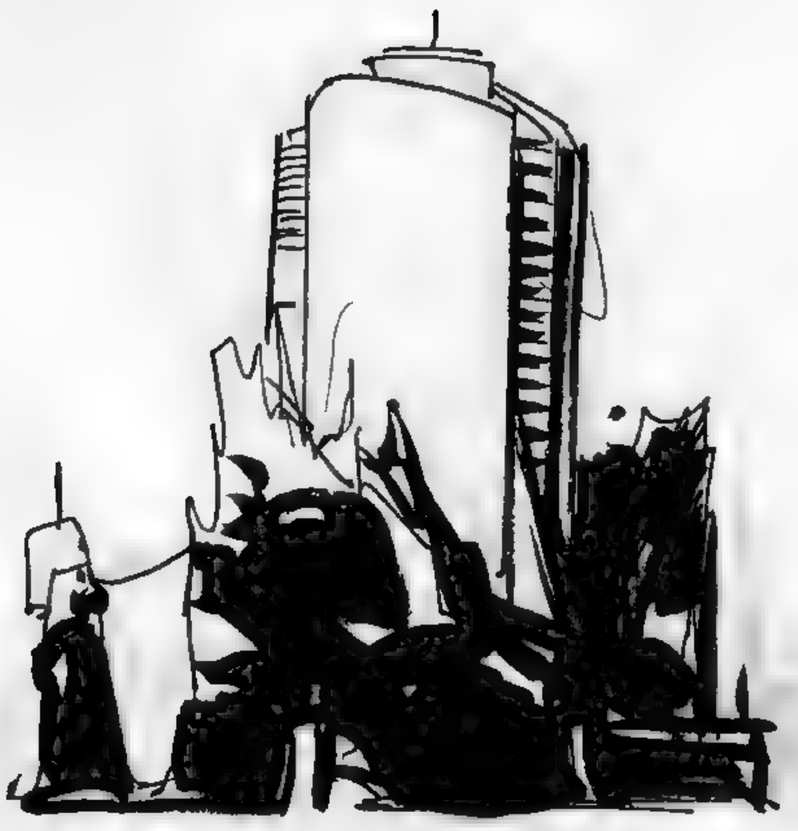
If I ever get to do a sequel, I've got plans for Rebekah.

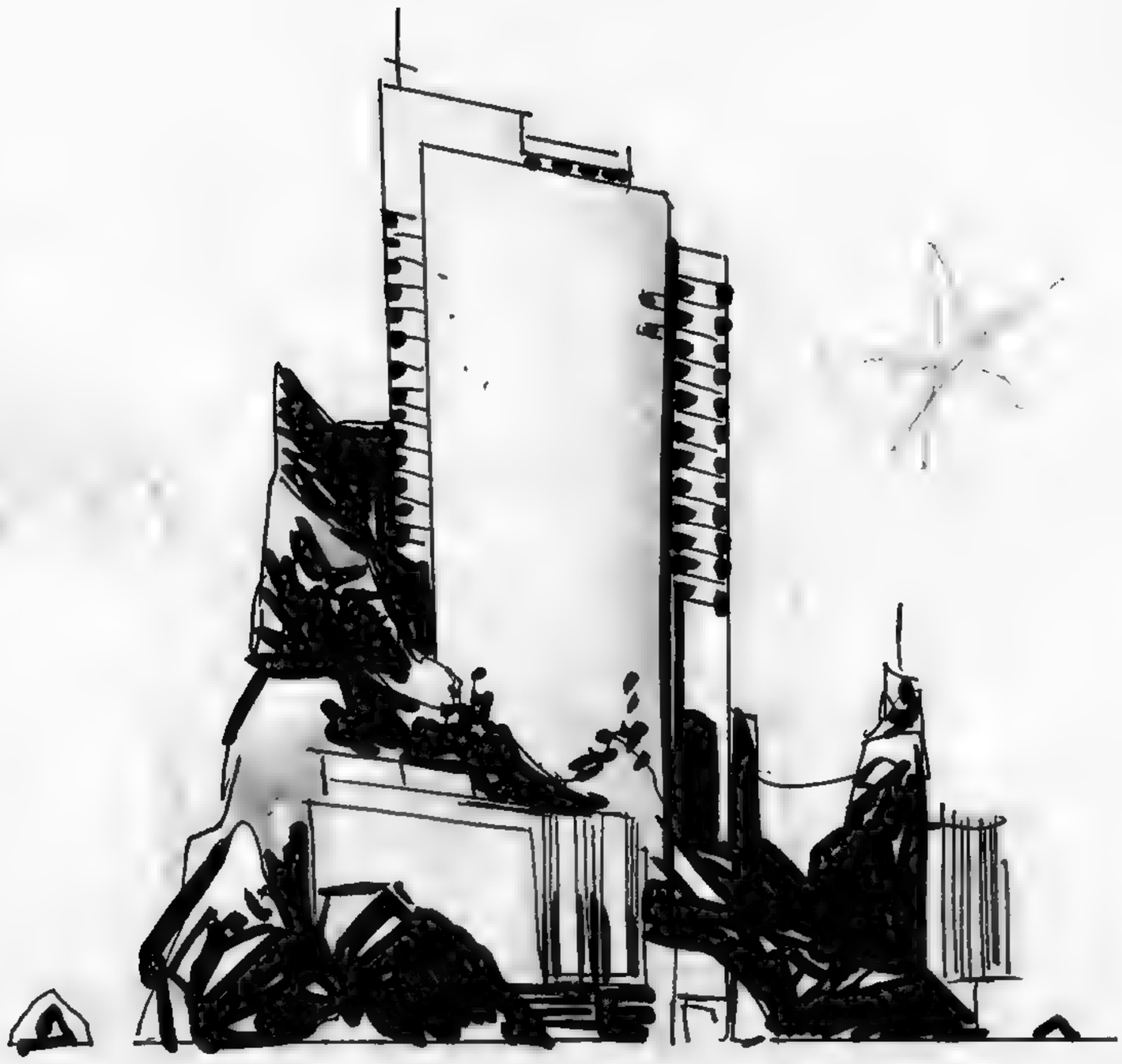
FAVORITE PANEL

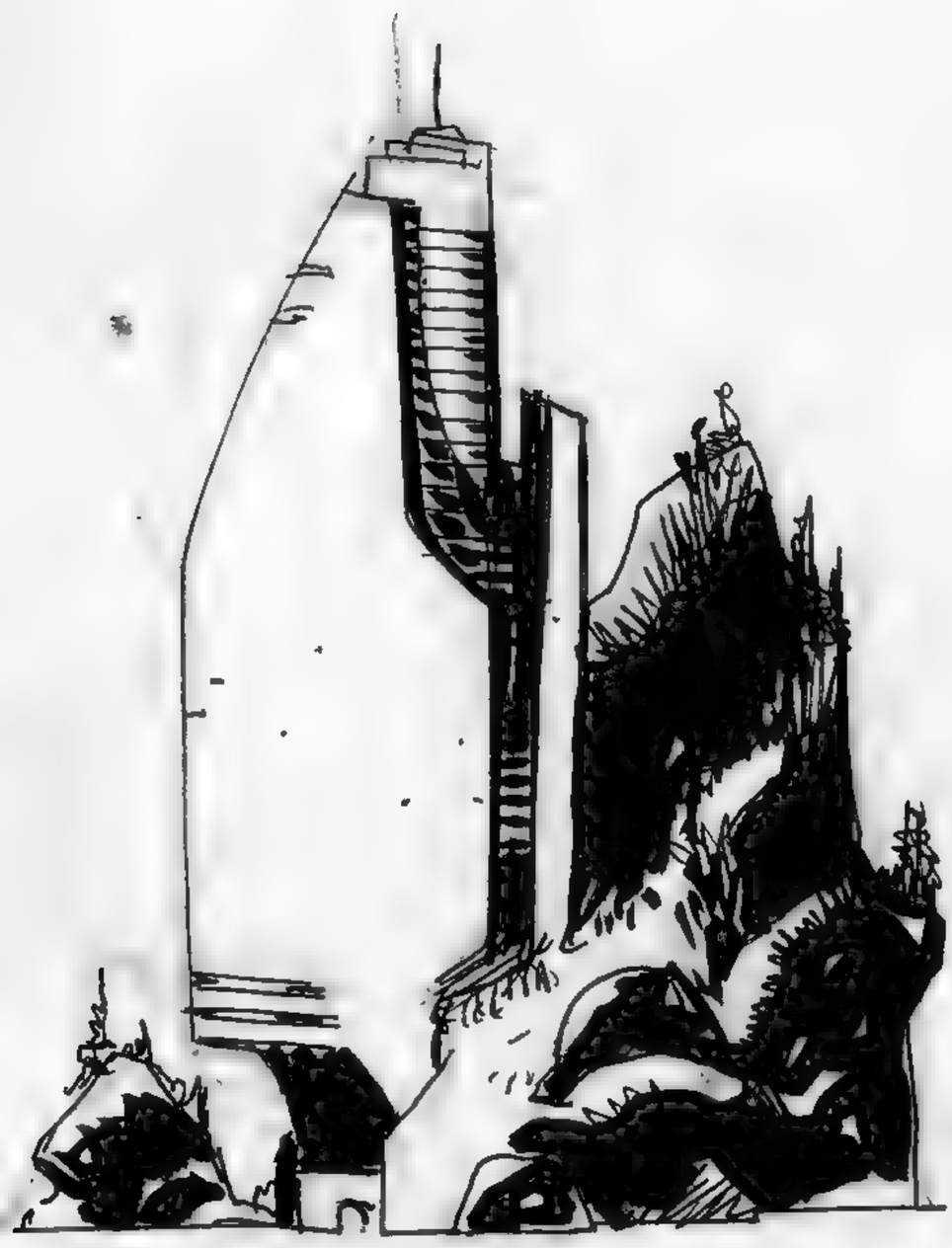
This panel sums up Rebekah's relationship with Thomas and Chris very well: she gets him to do the right thing despite his reluctance. And if he doesn't comply, then Thomas will force him.

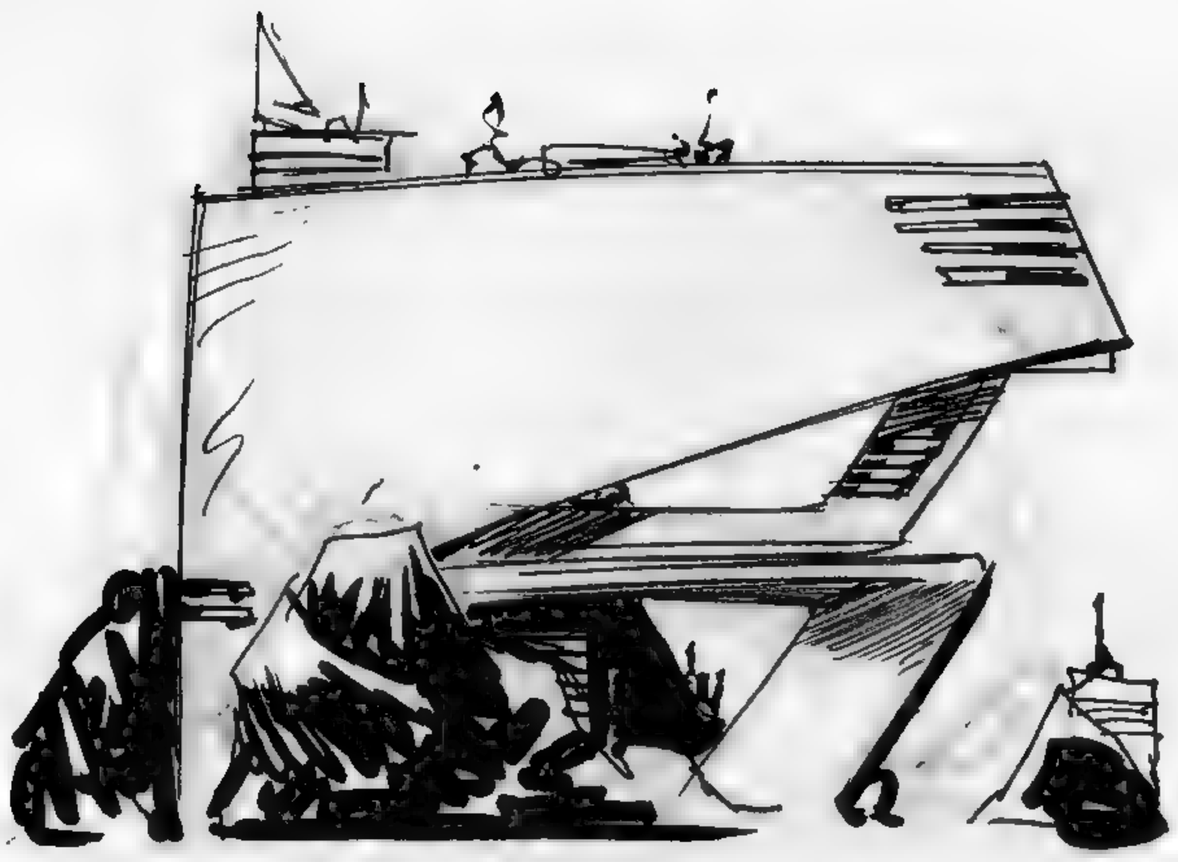
CONCEPT ART

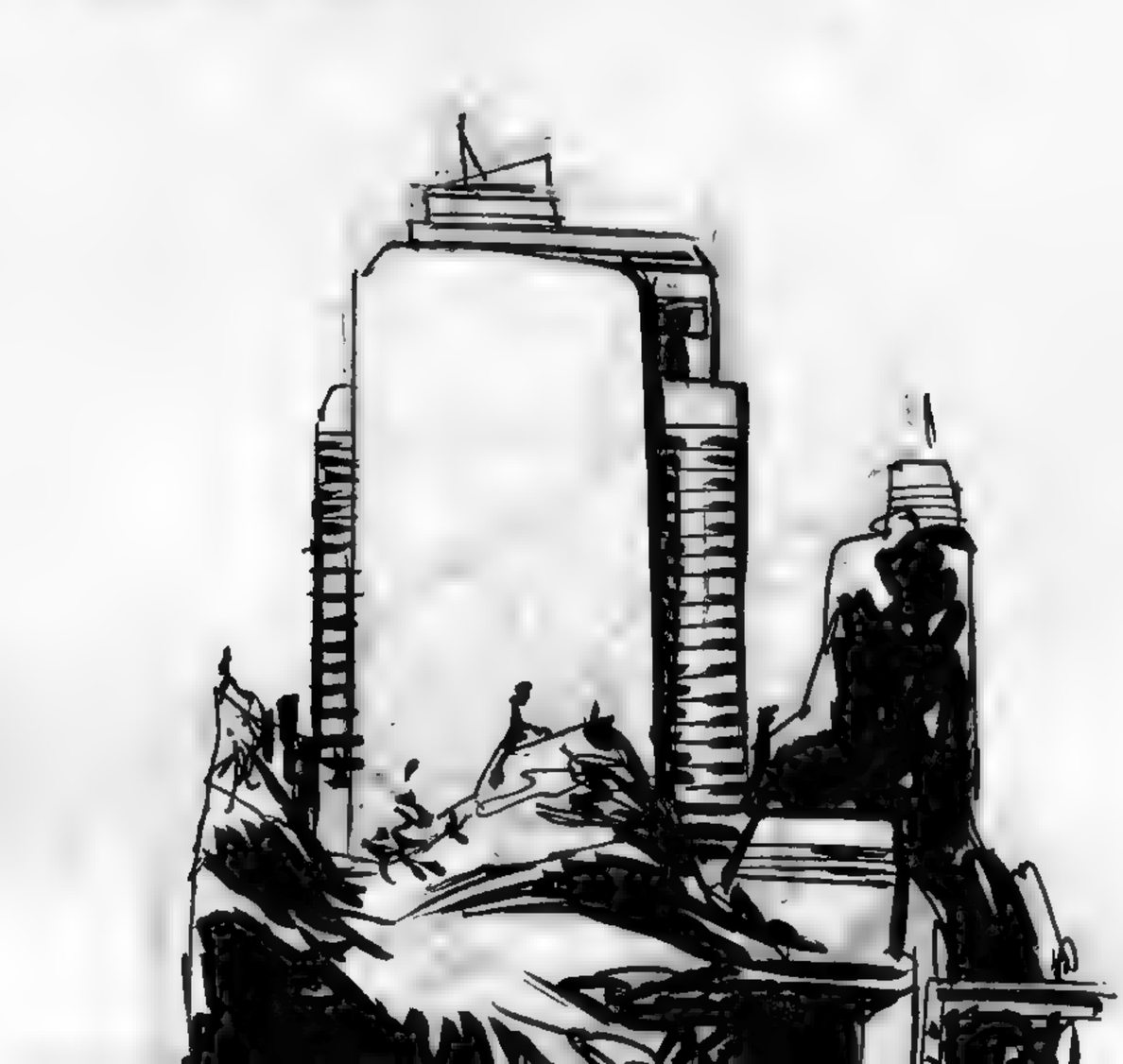
For J2, I wanted an island where the steep structure of the rocks and trees blended with the architecture. Here are the different designs I went through.





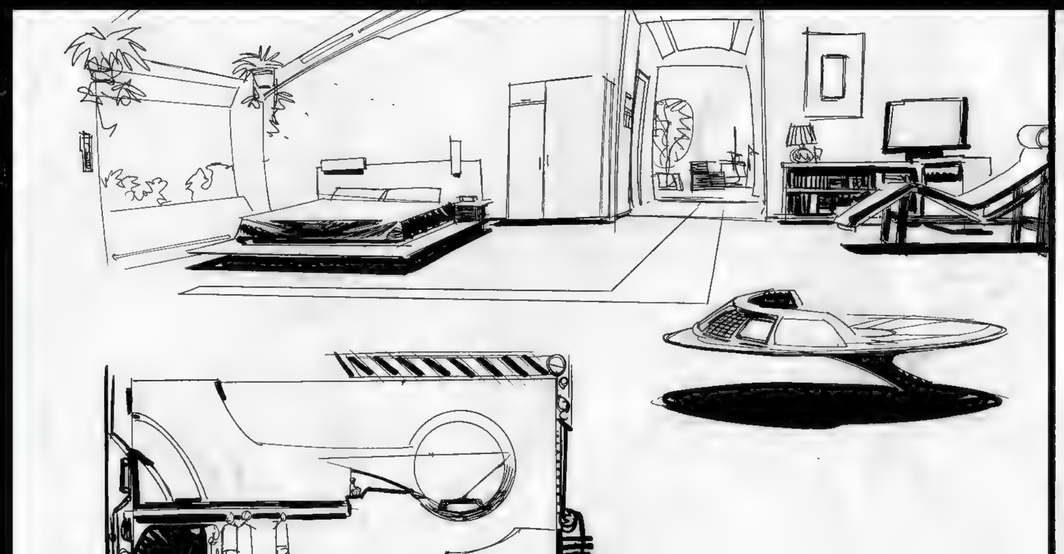


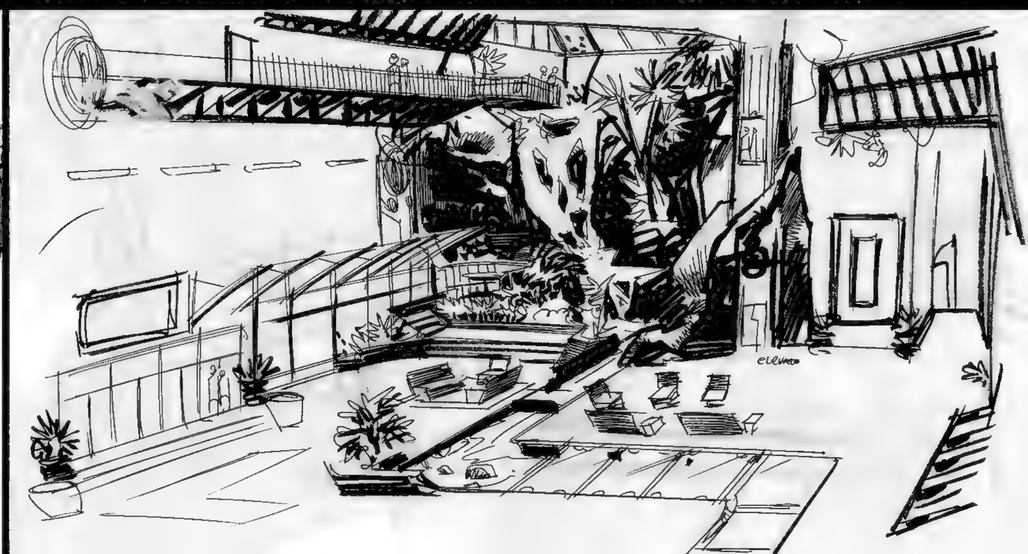


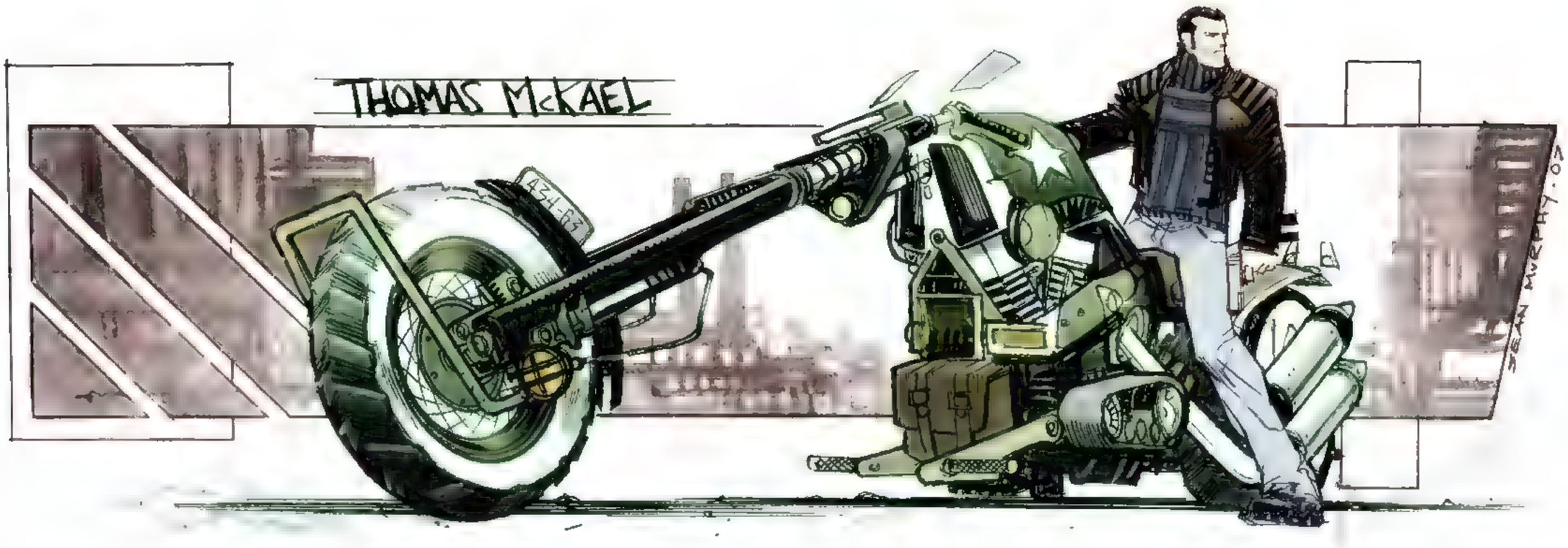


Here's another design I went crazy on. Too bad I only needed it for a single shot in issue one. While it didn't have much face time, it does have a nice mix of nature interweaving with modern architecture, something common in J2's design.

While the rest of the J2 Compound was clean, modern and minimalistic, I wanted Epstein's lab to be more sci-fi. So I filled it with Syd Mead style tech and a large window overlooking the coral beneath the waves of J2. Eventually I added a moon pool as well—not only were these interesting visuals, but I imagine access to the ocean is part of her work with algae.





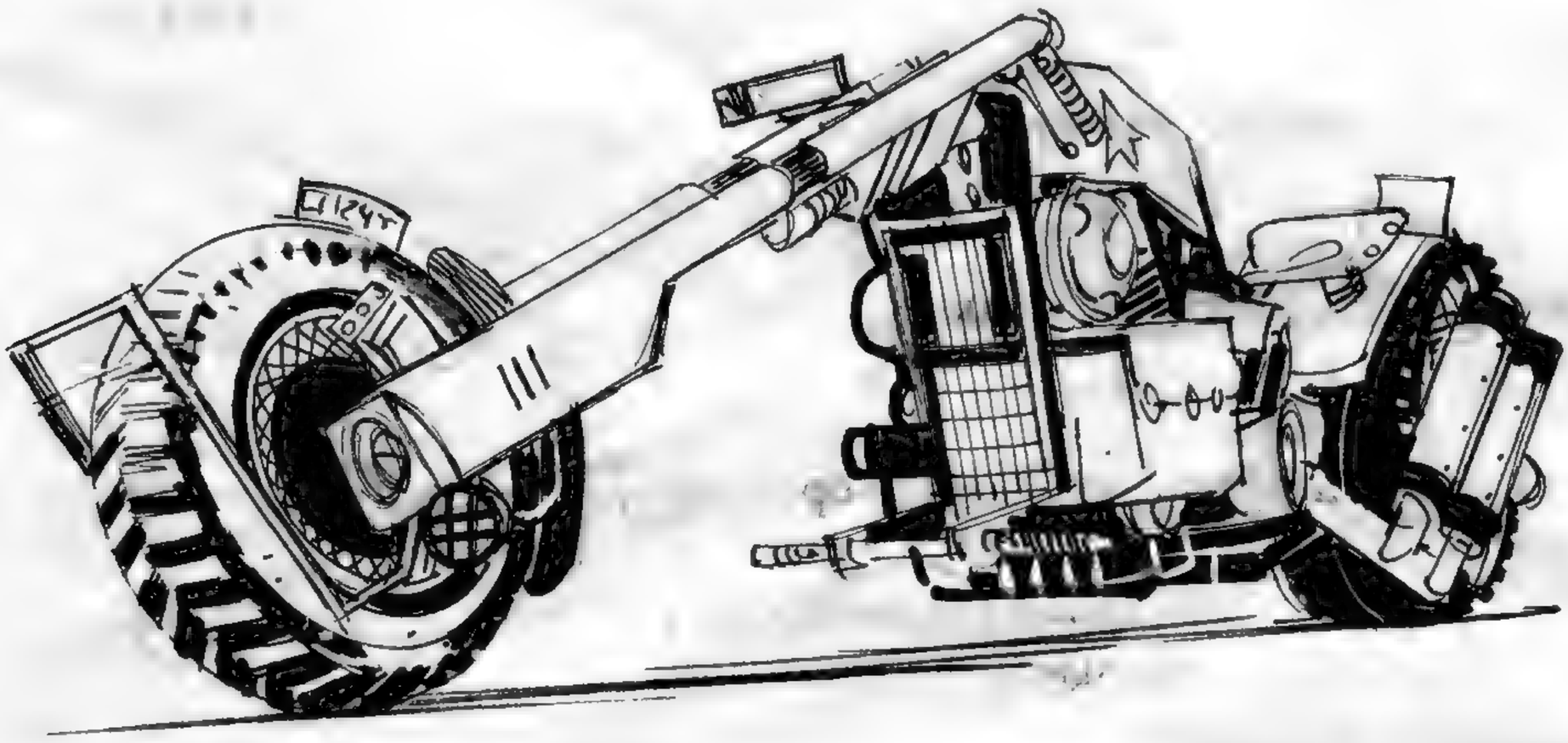


△

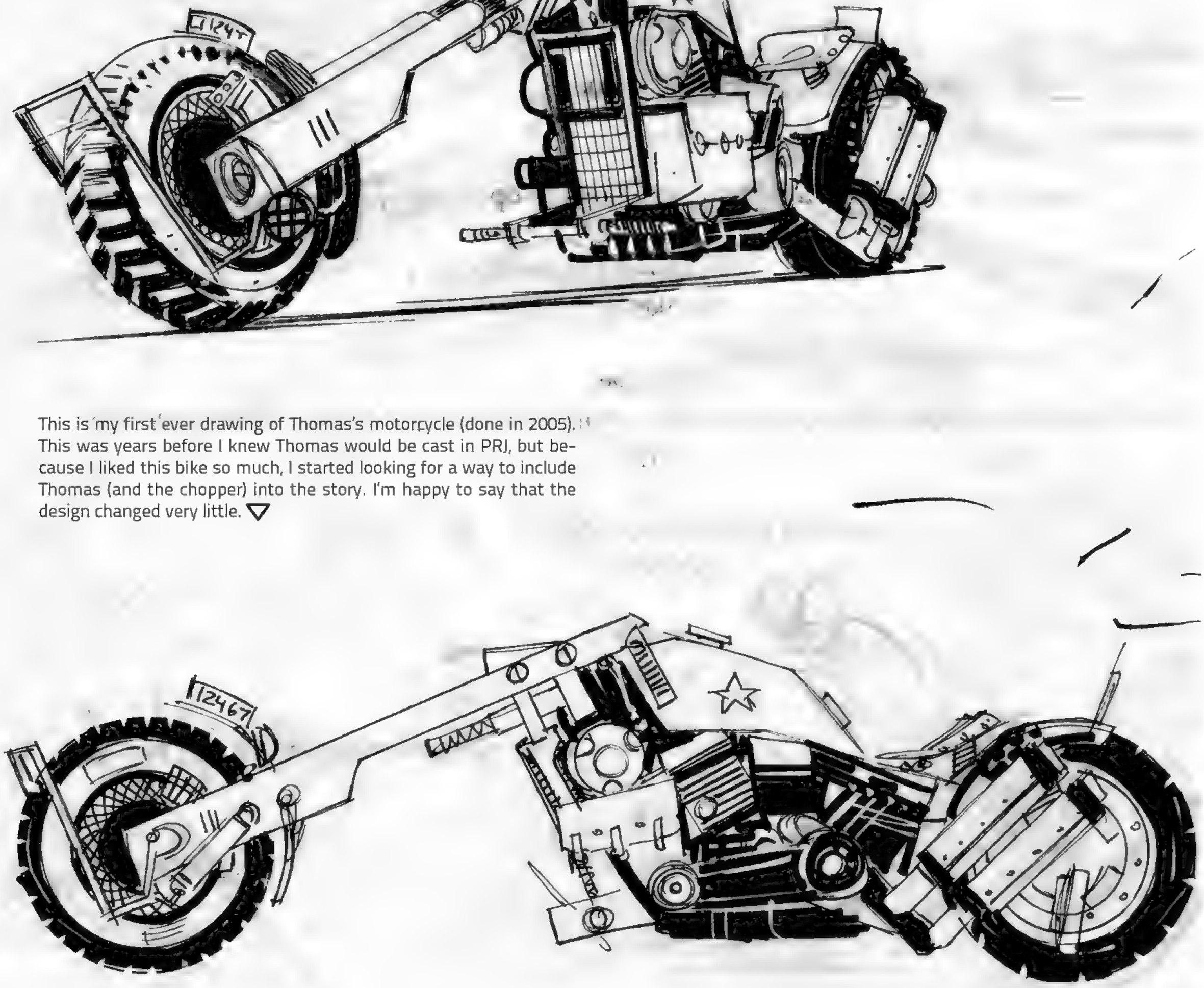
While the bike adds an element of coolness to the story (and to Thomas), I had other reasons to add it that were based on my storytelling concerns. Obviously the bike is a symbol for being a loner (which Thomas is), but the military star also reflected Thomas's military past.

When we first see the bike, it's a classic 1939 Indian Scout that his father was planning on giving him. Symbolically, this suggests his father's plans for Thomas were of a militant nature, or one based on combat. If it was any old bike, it wouldn't project this.

Then later, Thomas alters the bike with Tim (pages I'm adding to the TPB). The symbolism here is that Thomas has taken his father's gift (a history of violence) and changed it into something new (Thomas' second change with J2 protecting Jesus Christ). Even if readers don't directly understand this in the story, my hope is that they feel it in some way.



This is my first ever drawing of Thomas's motorcycle (done in 2005). This was years before I knew Thomas would be cast in PRJ, but because I liked this bike so much, I started looking for a way to include Thomas (and the chopper) into the story. I'm happy to say that the design changed very little. ▽

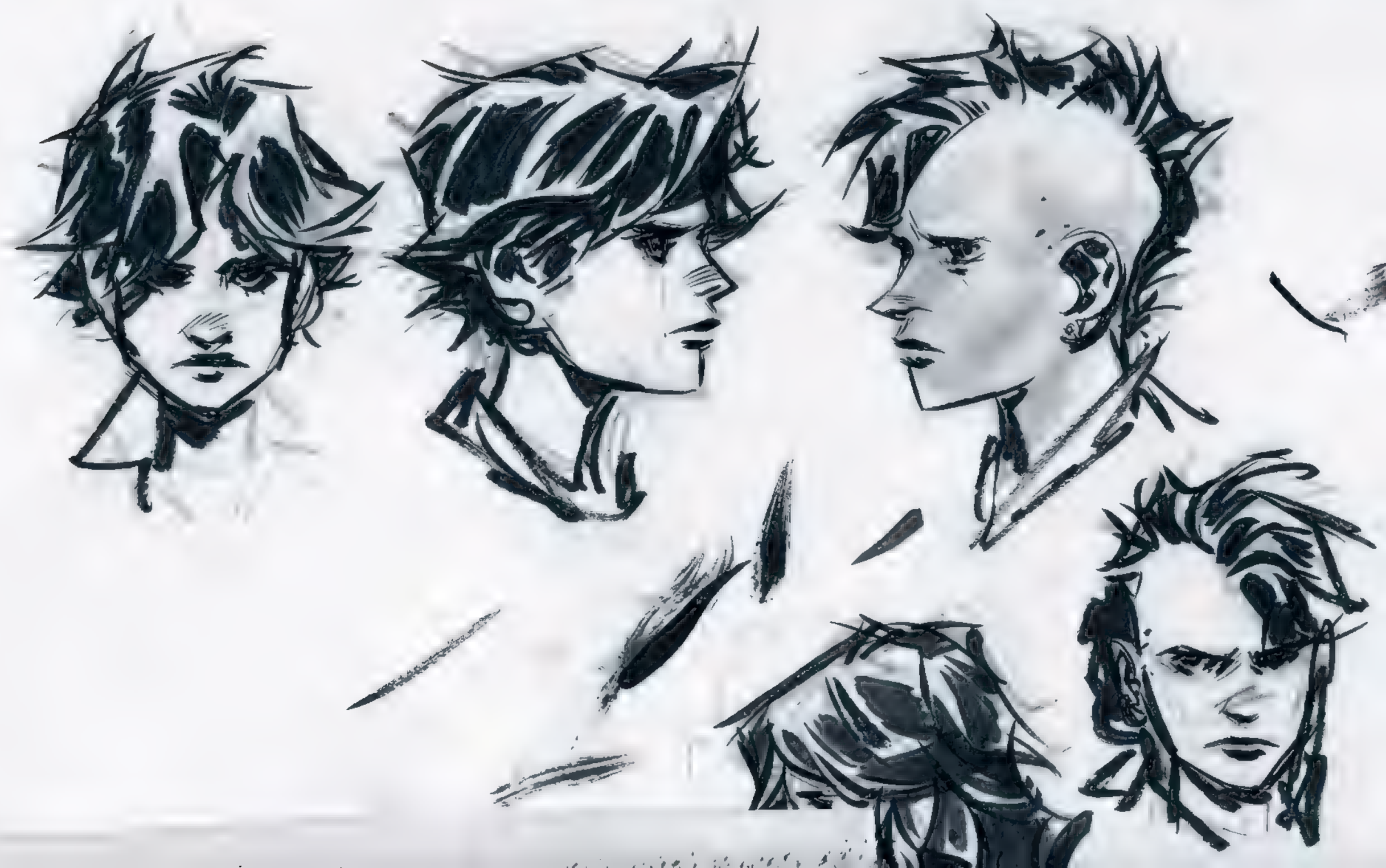


To help me draw the bike better, I had a friend in Russia create it in Sketchup (his name on Deviant Art is "600v"). To be clear, I never printed the bike out and traced it onto my drawing board—instead I just found the correct angle in Sketchup and drew what I saw on the screen. Tracing is fine for some people; I just think it looks flat and lifeless.

△
I'm a huge fan of '50s-styled diners from the West Coast, and I figured I could justify sneaking one into J2 and the staff's cafeteria. I only used it in a few shots, so perhaps it was a waste of time spending so much time researching the design. Oh well—at least it adds an interesting texture to an otherwise dark book.

△
Here are some early sketches for some of the characters. You'll notice some of the names are different, along with other features. I wish I'd kept the bar code tattoo for Tape's chest, but I completely forgot about it when I sat down to draw him.

It's easy to draw a mohawk as spiky triangles, so I tried making Chris's a little different. His hair is naturally wavy and messy, and it made for a new kind of mohawk that I hadn't seen before.
▽



STEP 1

4x5 thumbnail I send off to my editor for approval.

My wife's friend Emily is a burlesque dancer who agreed to model for the book.

I had a particular cafe in mind for this scene, this place in Brooklyn called Cafe Regular. It's a bit small but it has great decor and color. I'll pass the photos on to Dave Stewart when it comes time for him to do his thing.

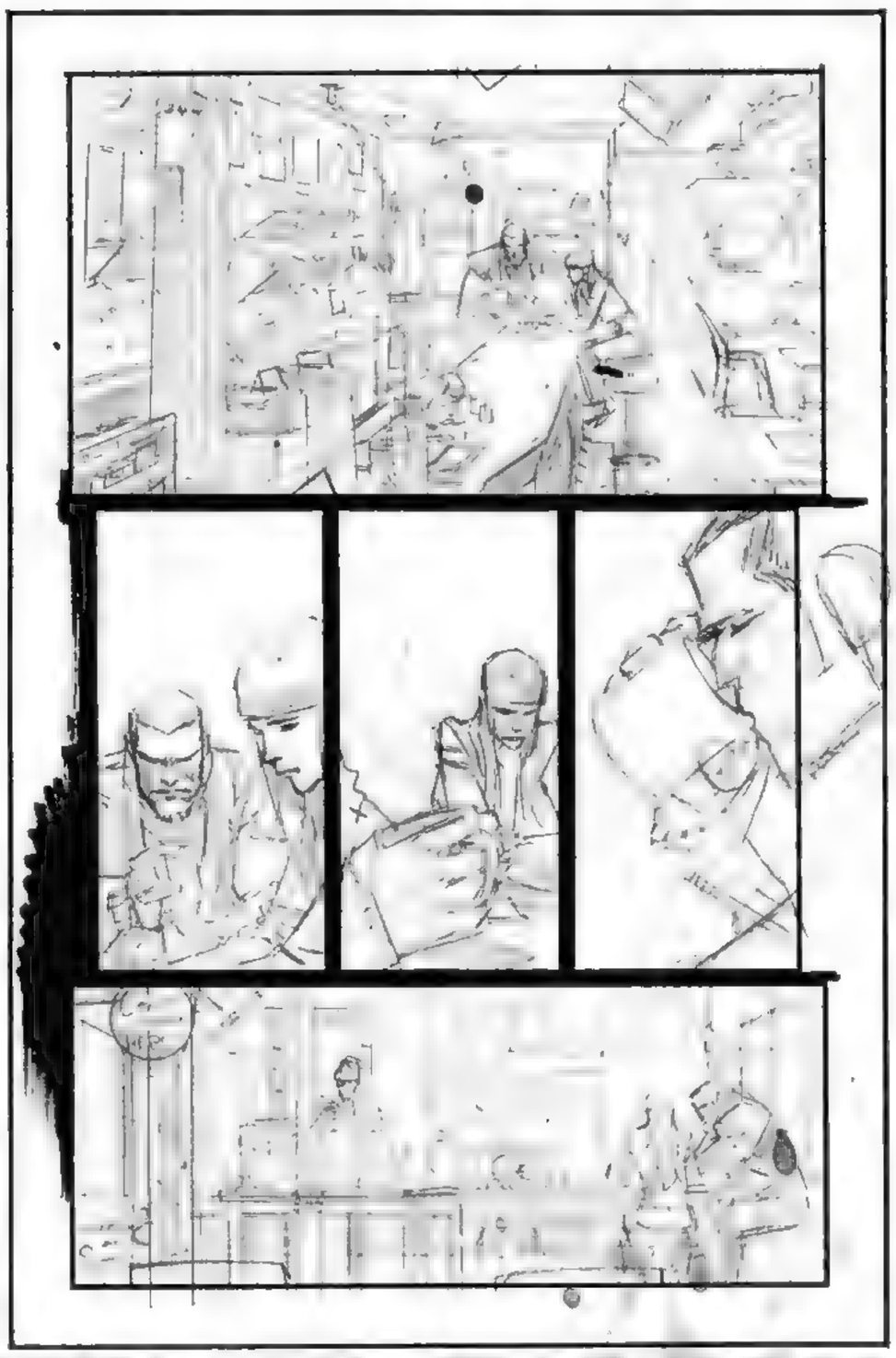
I change the poses a lot in order to fit the story. This also helps keep the figures from being stiff. I never trace a photo.

I broke the 180 rule in this scene because I wanted to show off the cafe which is important for the next page. There isn't a lot of movement with characters, so hopefully it's not a problem. Still, I can't help feeling like there's a better way to organize the shots where the characters wouldn't swap sides of the panels.

STEP 2

On the final piece of BC board/paper, I'll block in my shapes using different colored pencils. Blue is the blocking, red is the perspective grid, etc. It helps me keep track of what is what. This stage is mostly planning and takes around 90 minutes.

STEP 3



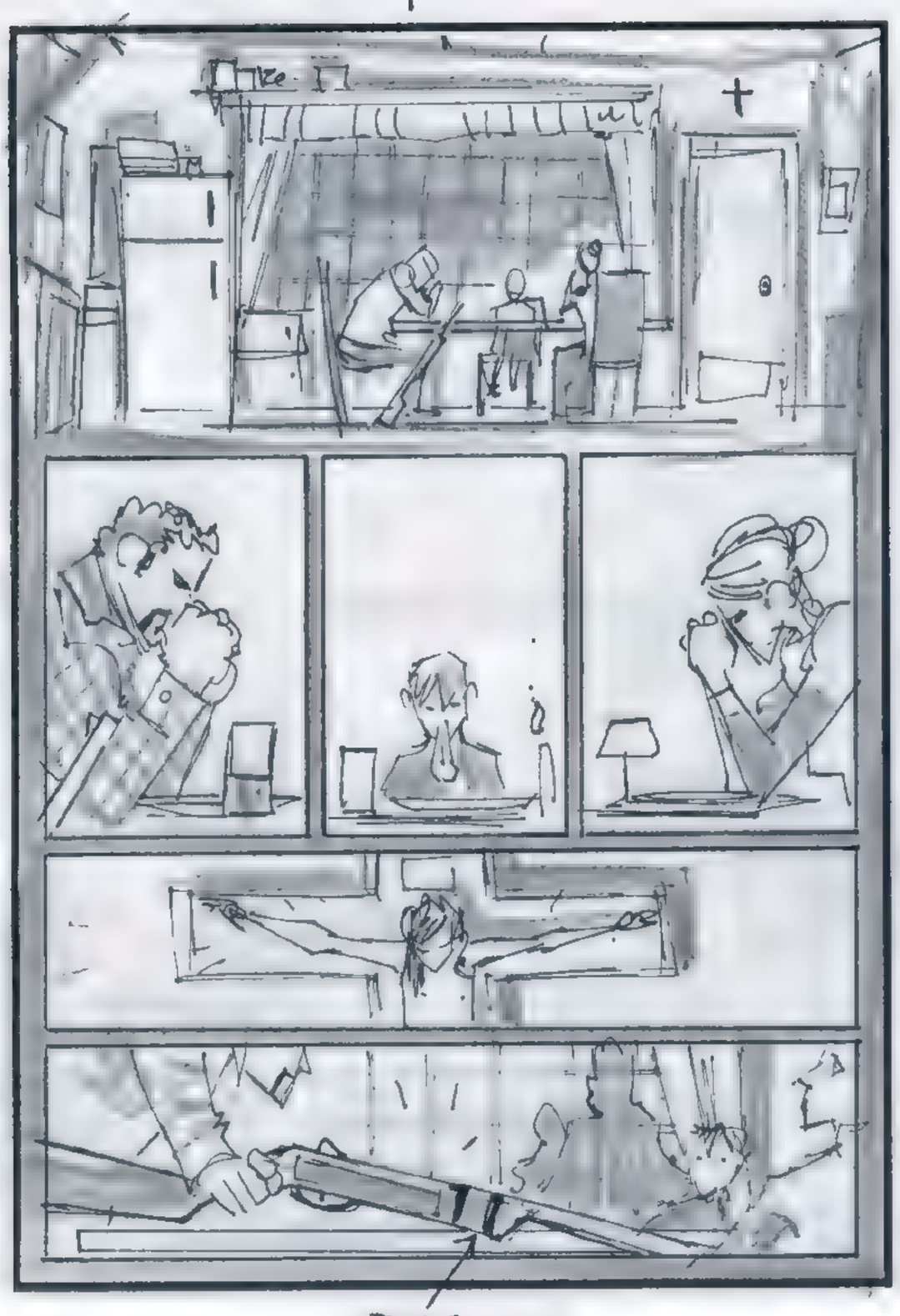
These are the final pencils, which took around 90 minutes. 90 might sound fast, but a lot of the work was already done in Step 2. I keep things loose so I don't end up tracing. This helps add more life to the linework.

STEP 4

Inking took about 3 hours. It's all Deleter nib, Raphael brushes, and Speedball ink.

LAYOUTS

1



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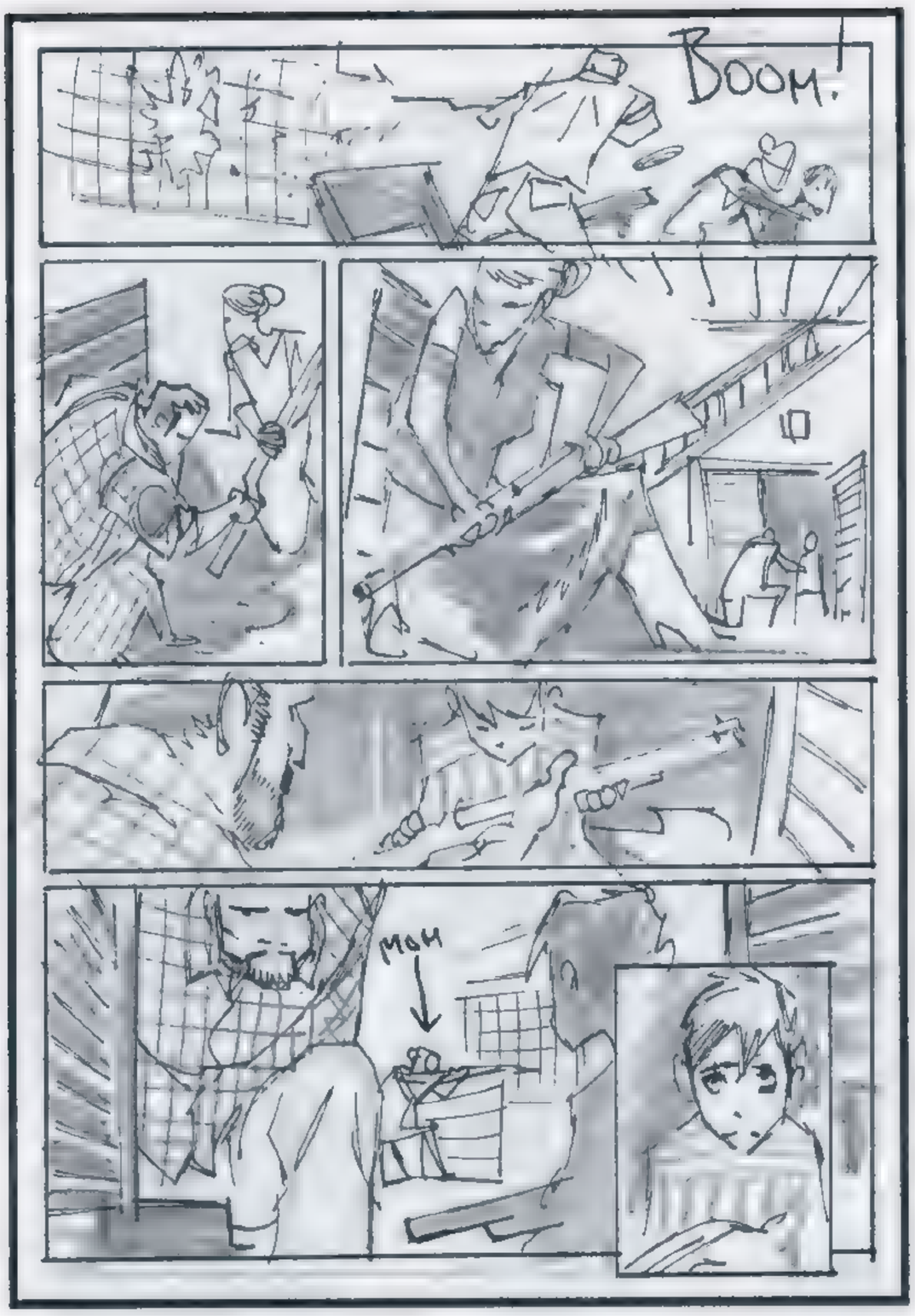

RIFLE

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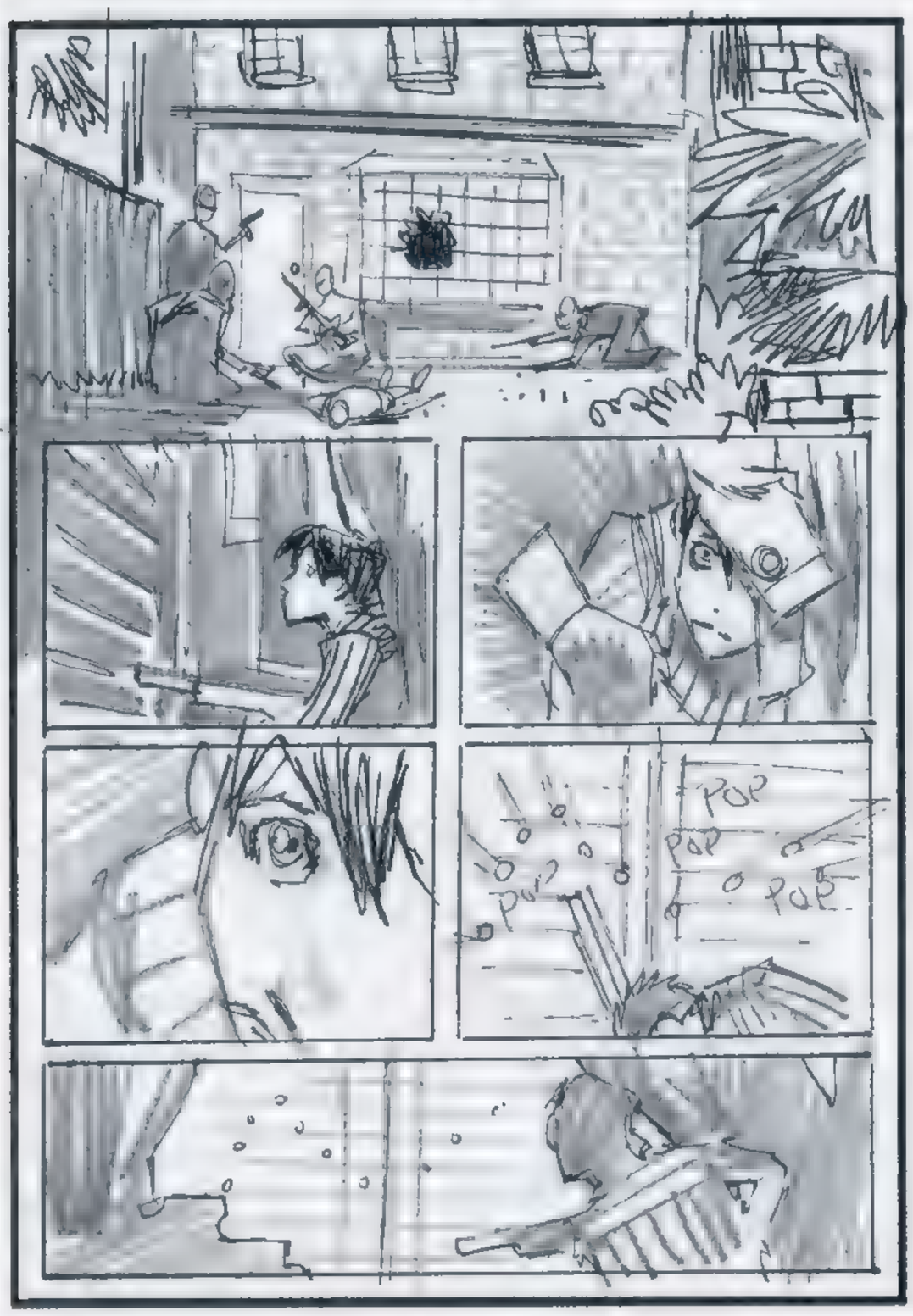

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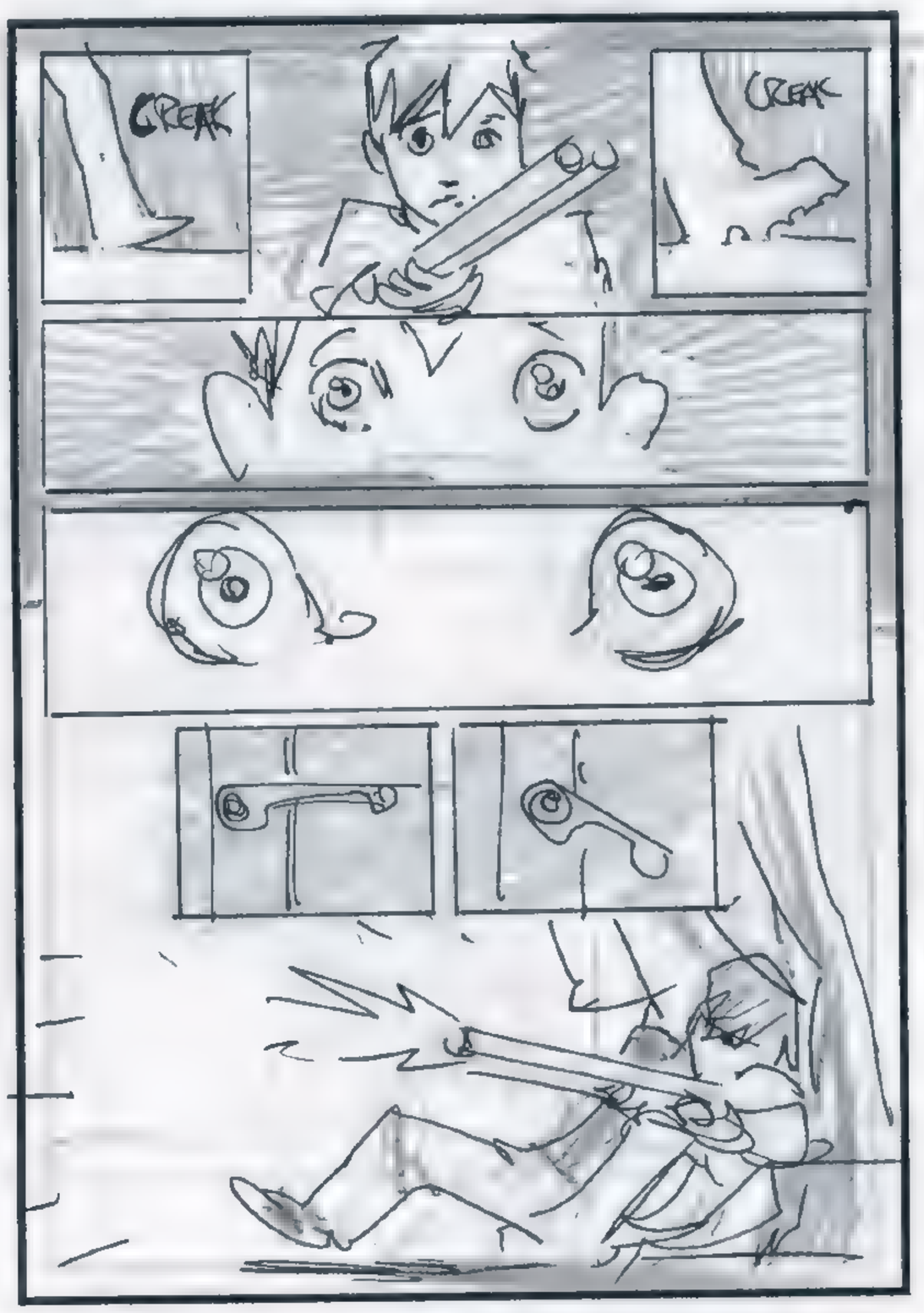

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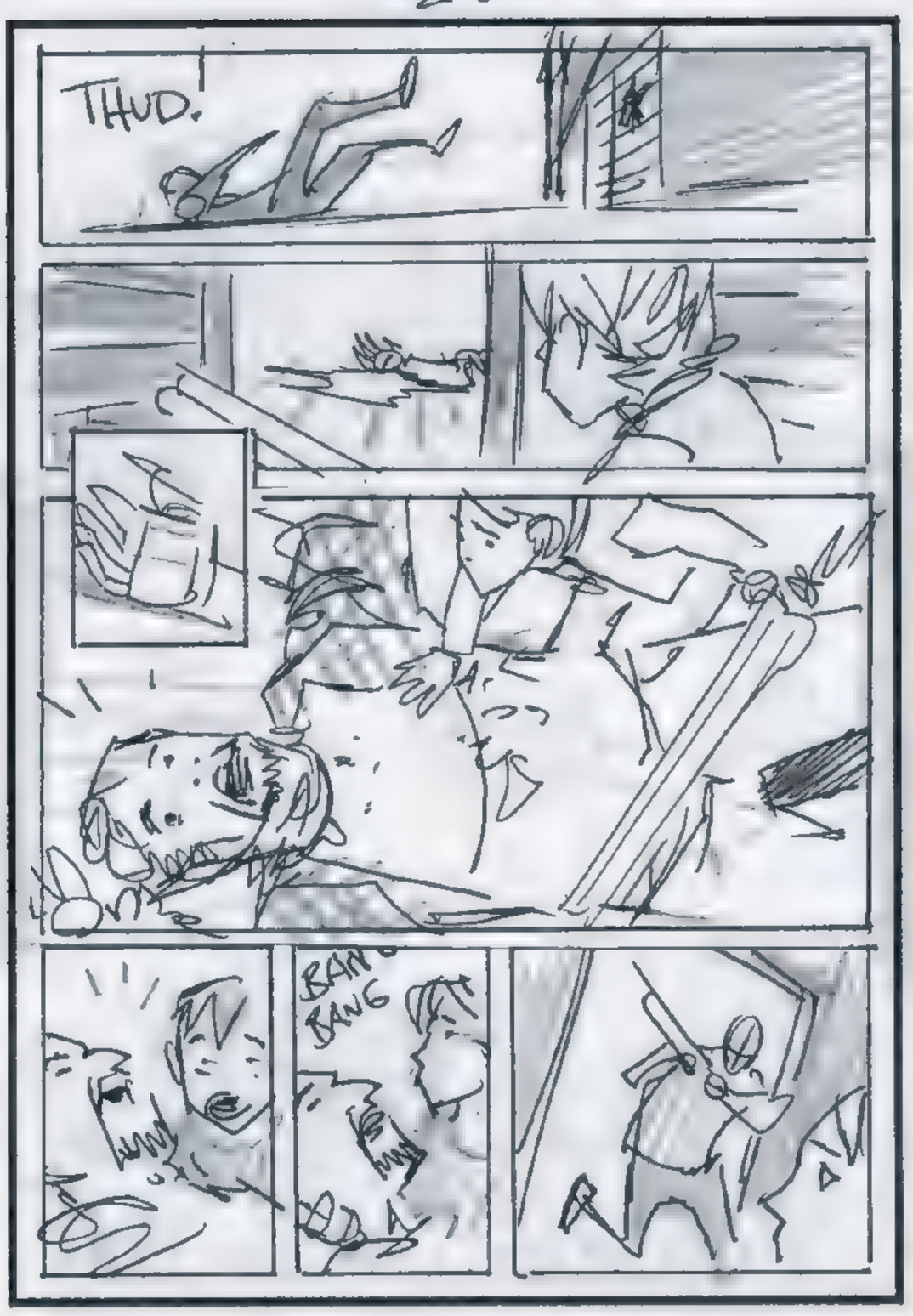
THUD!
BANG BANG

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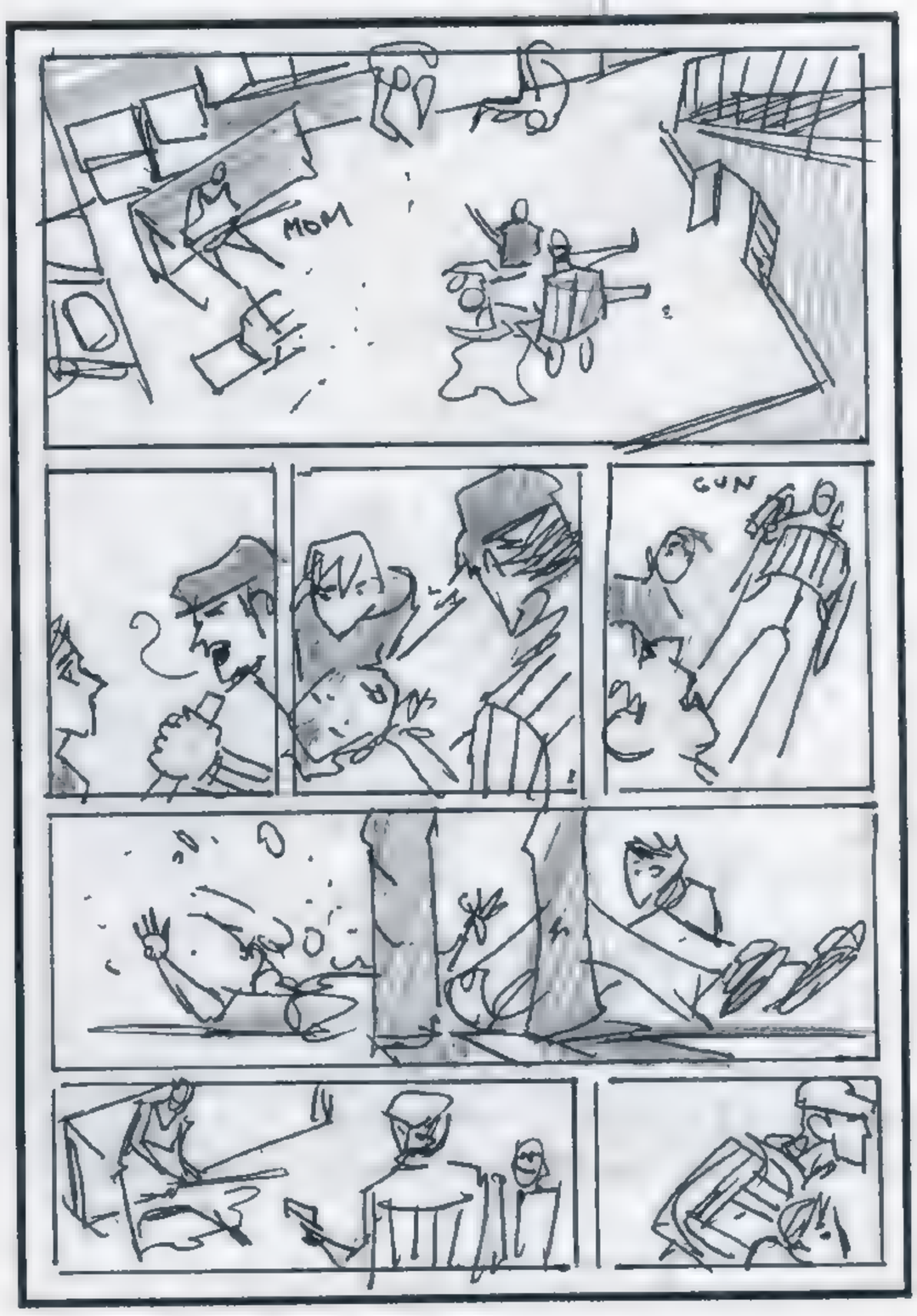
MOM
GUN

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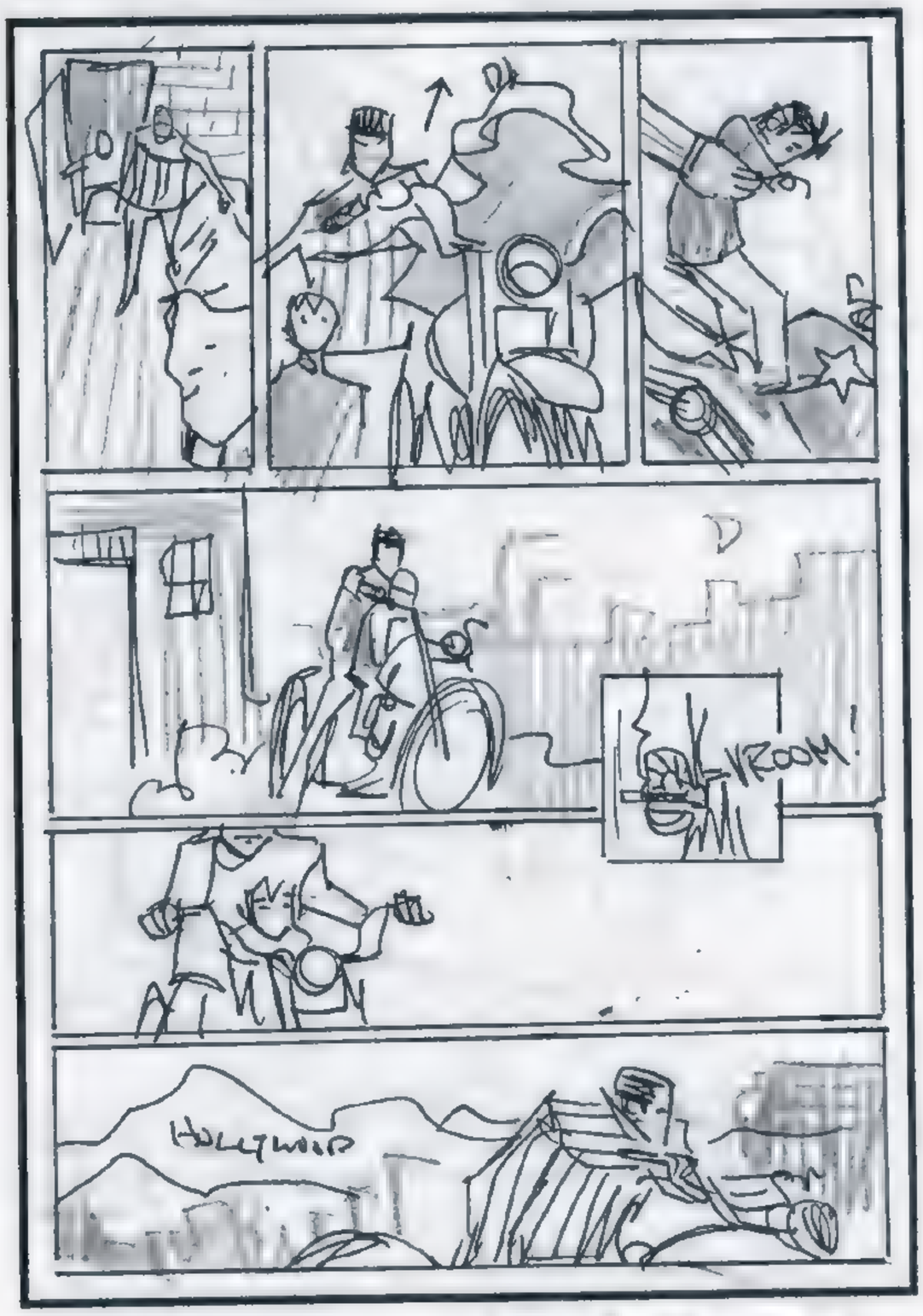
VROOM!
HOLLYWOOD

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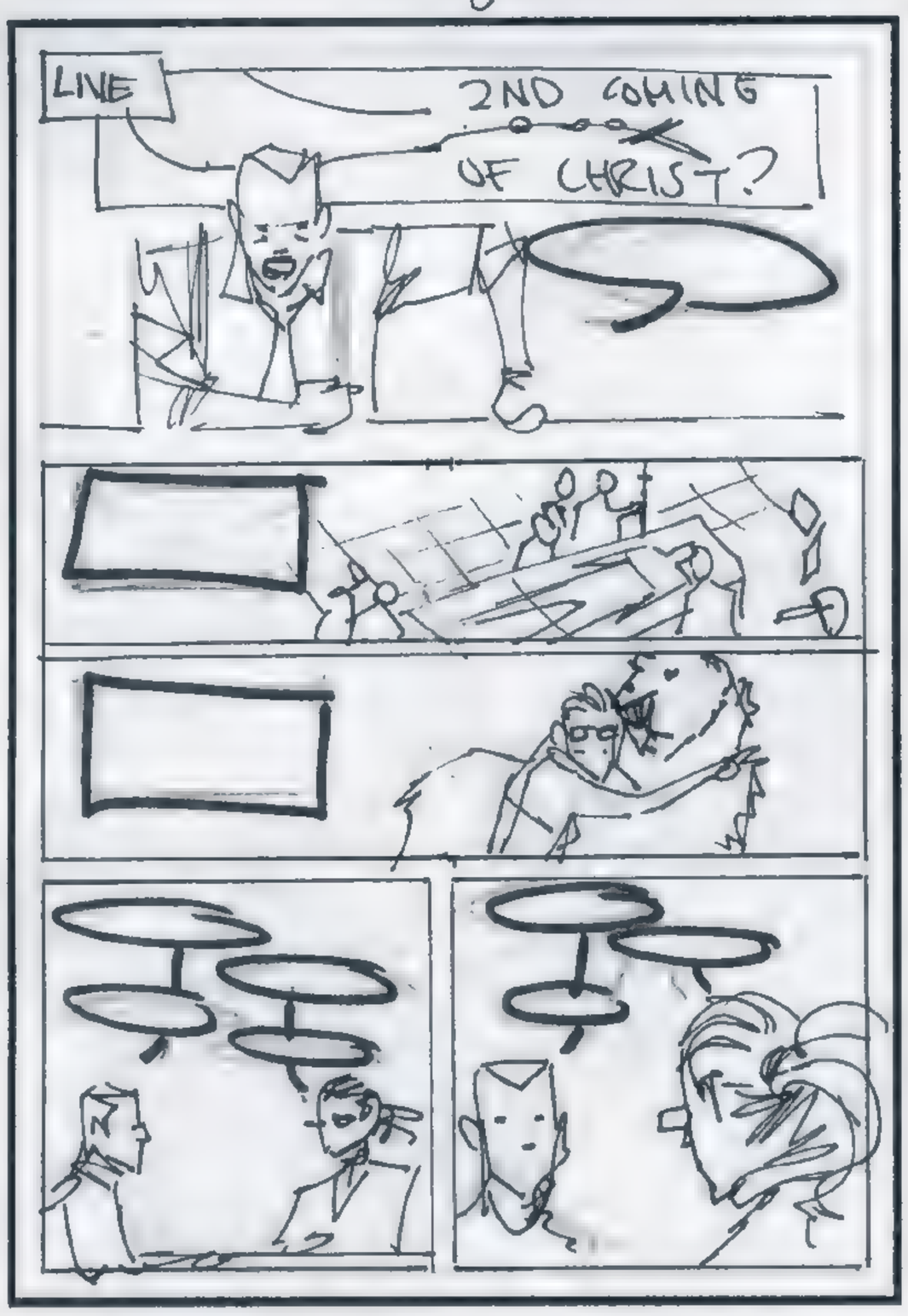
LIVE
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OF CHRIST?

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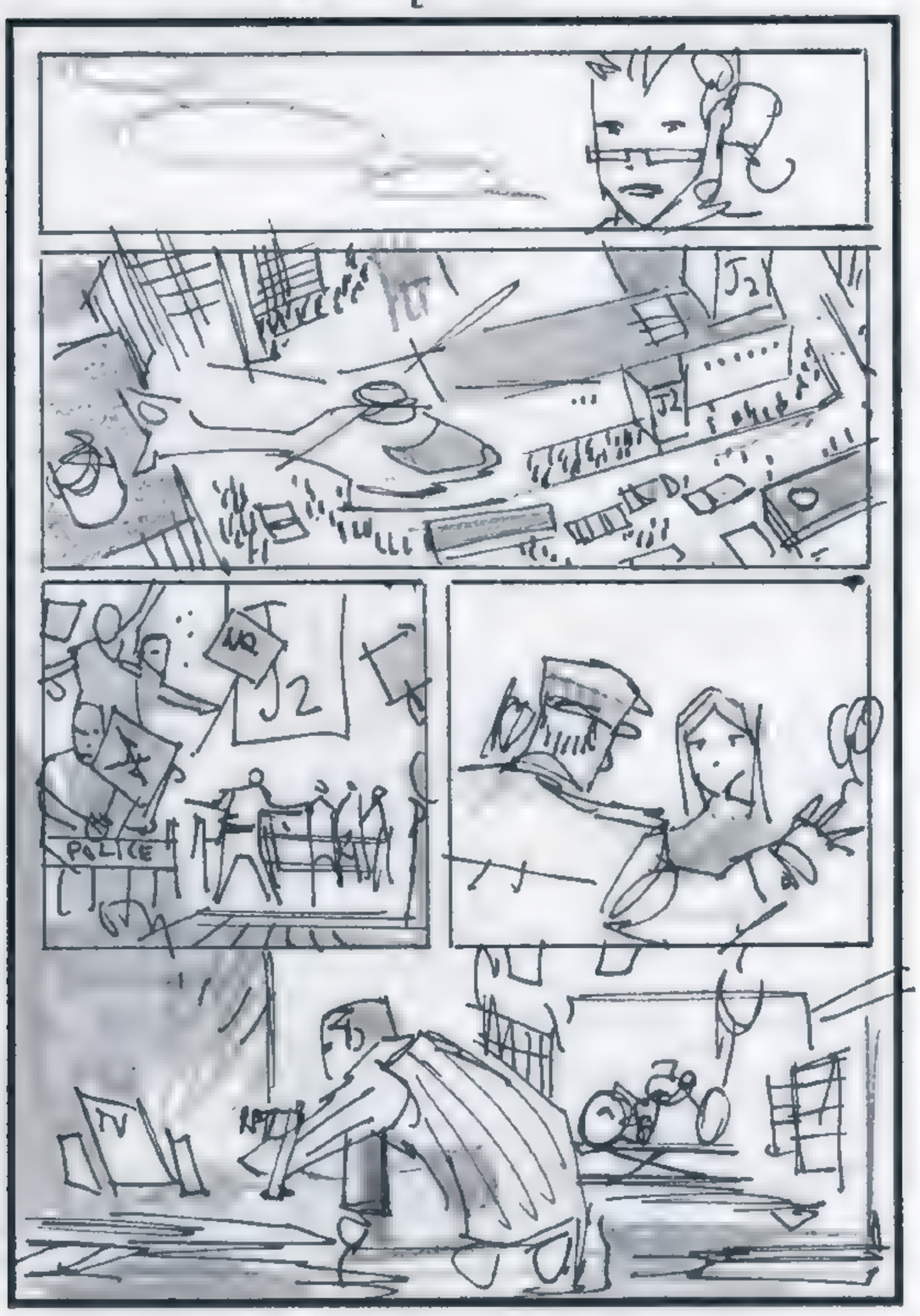

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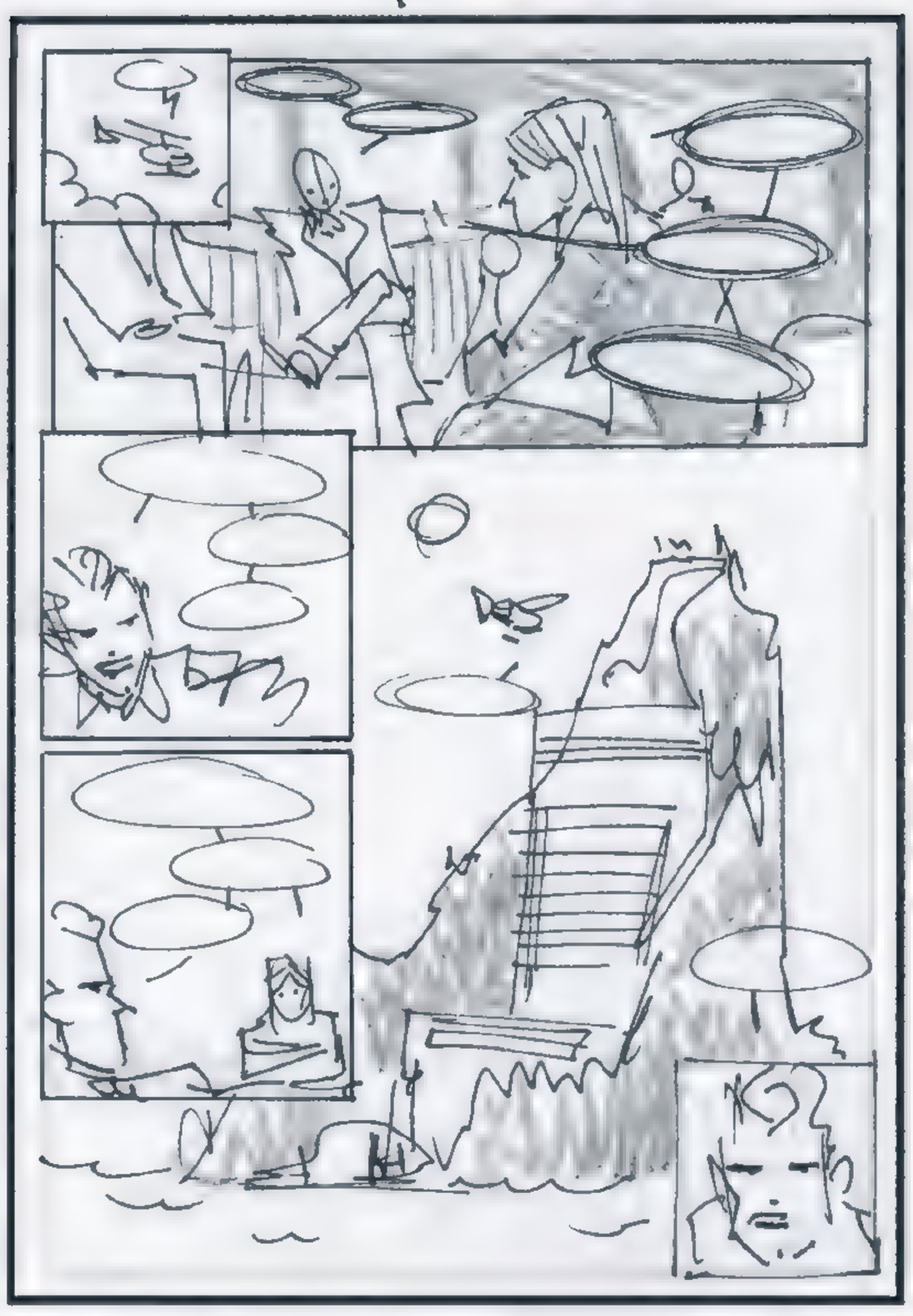

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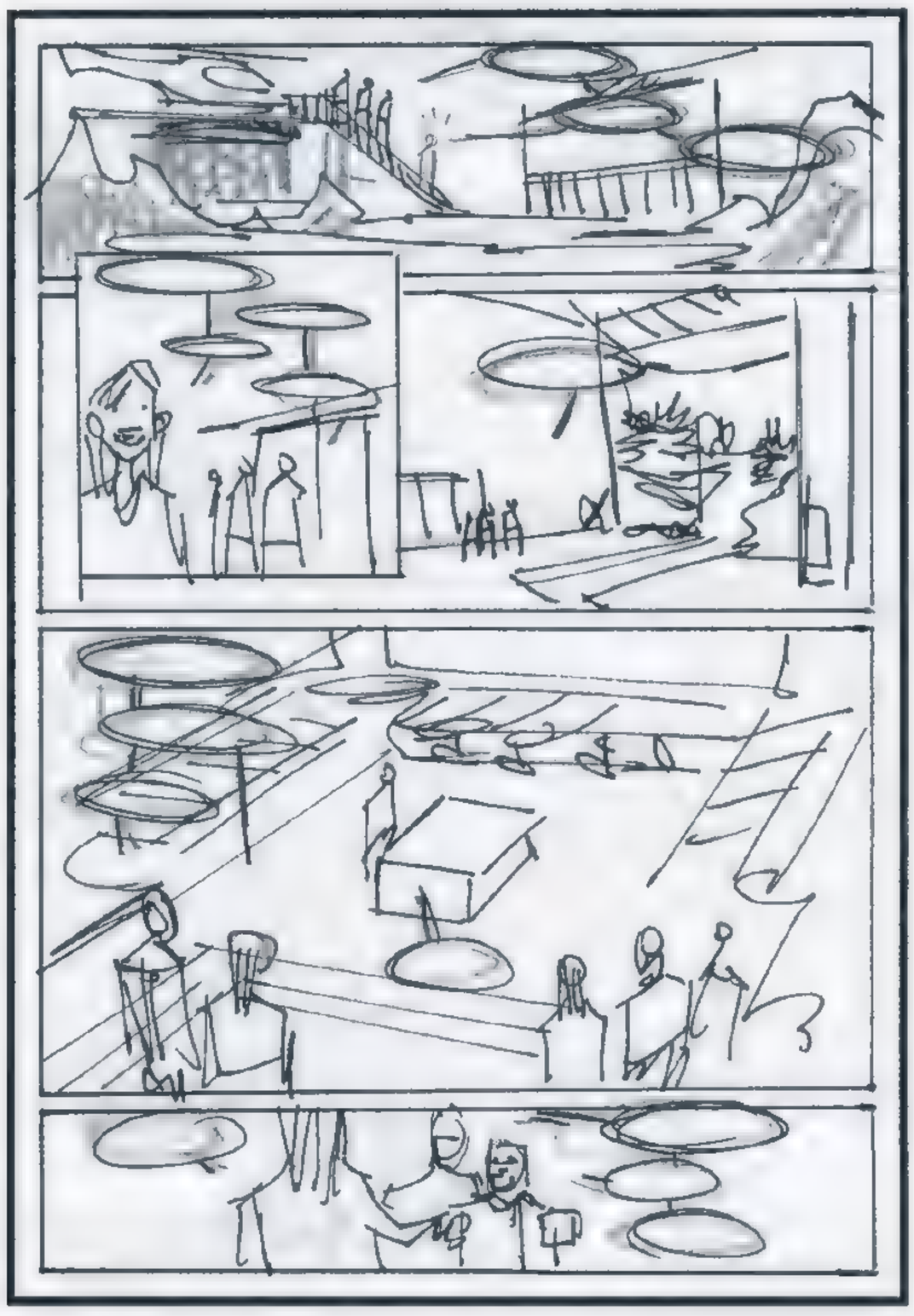

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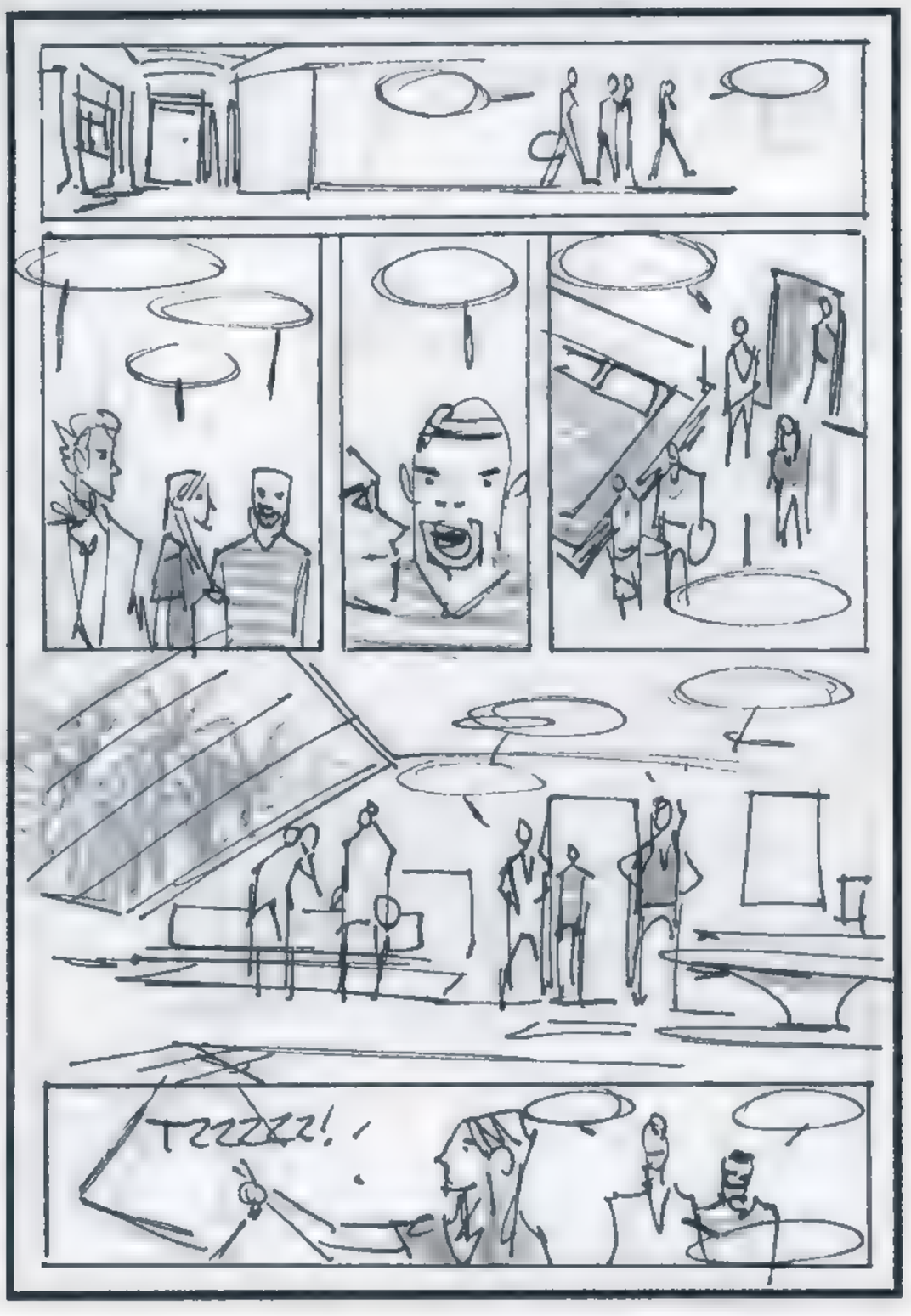

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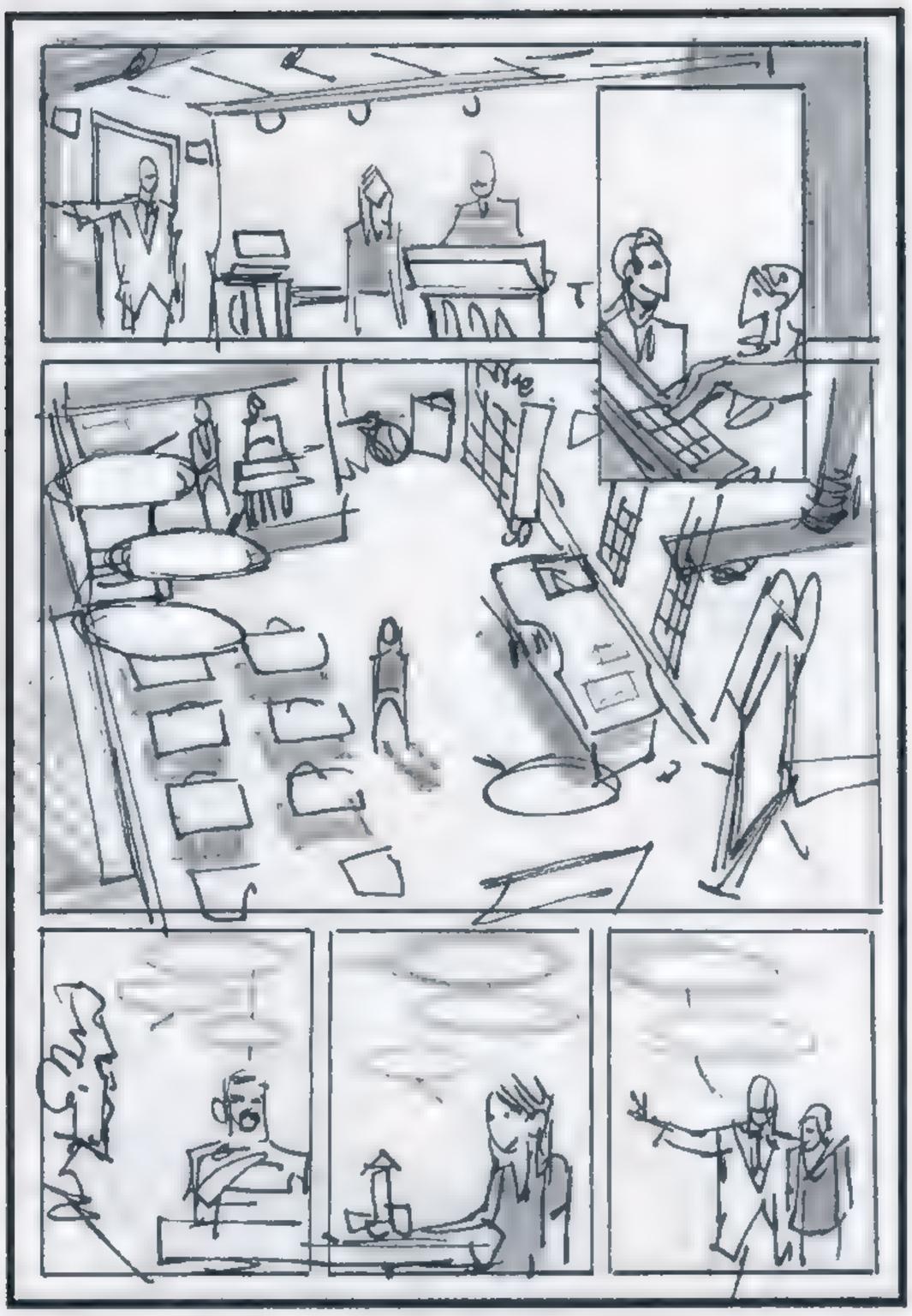

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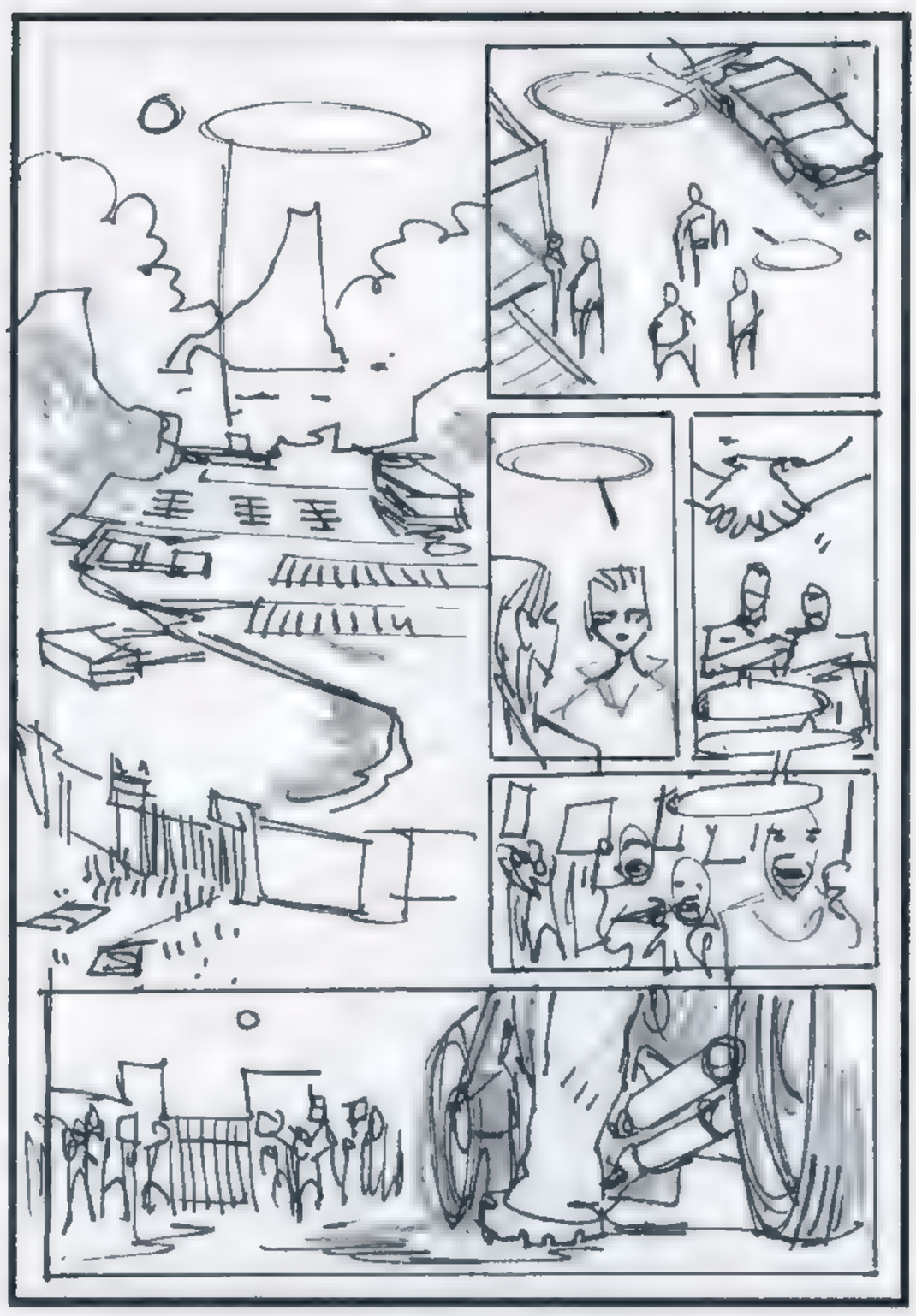

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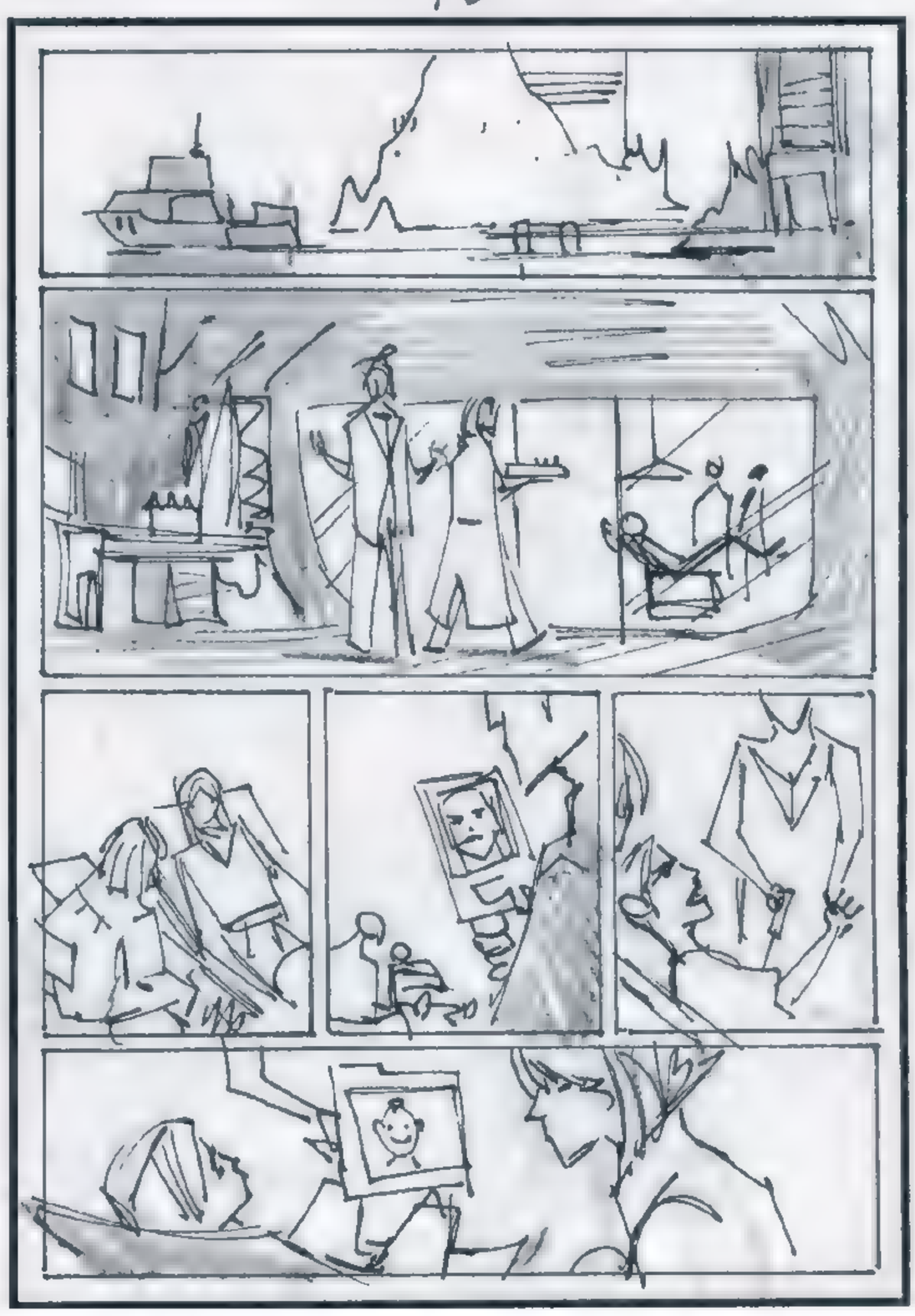

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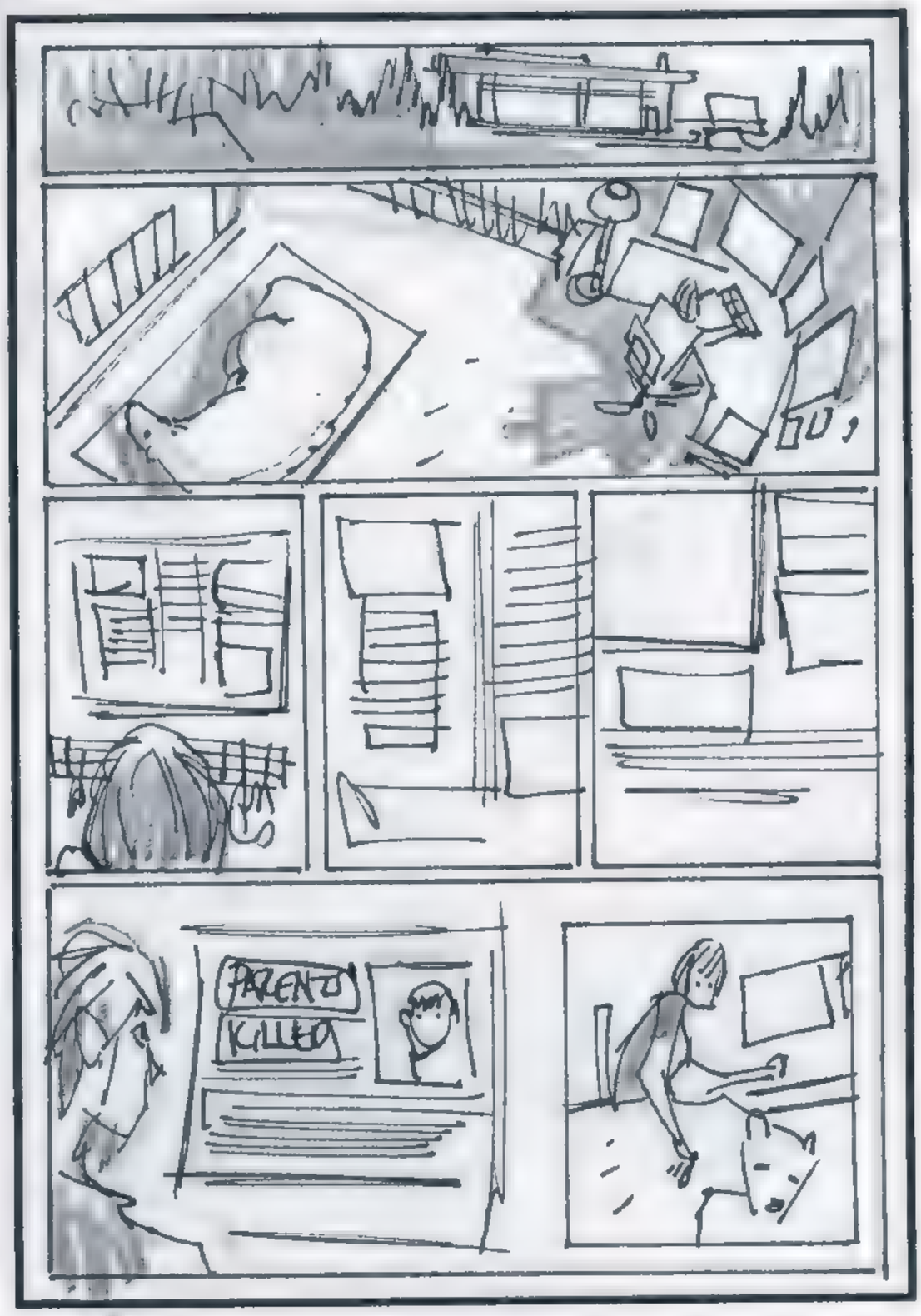

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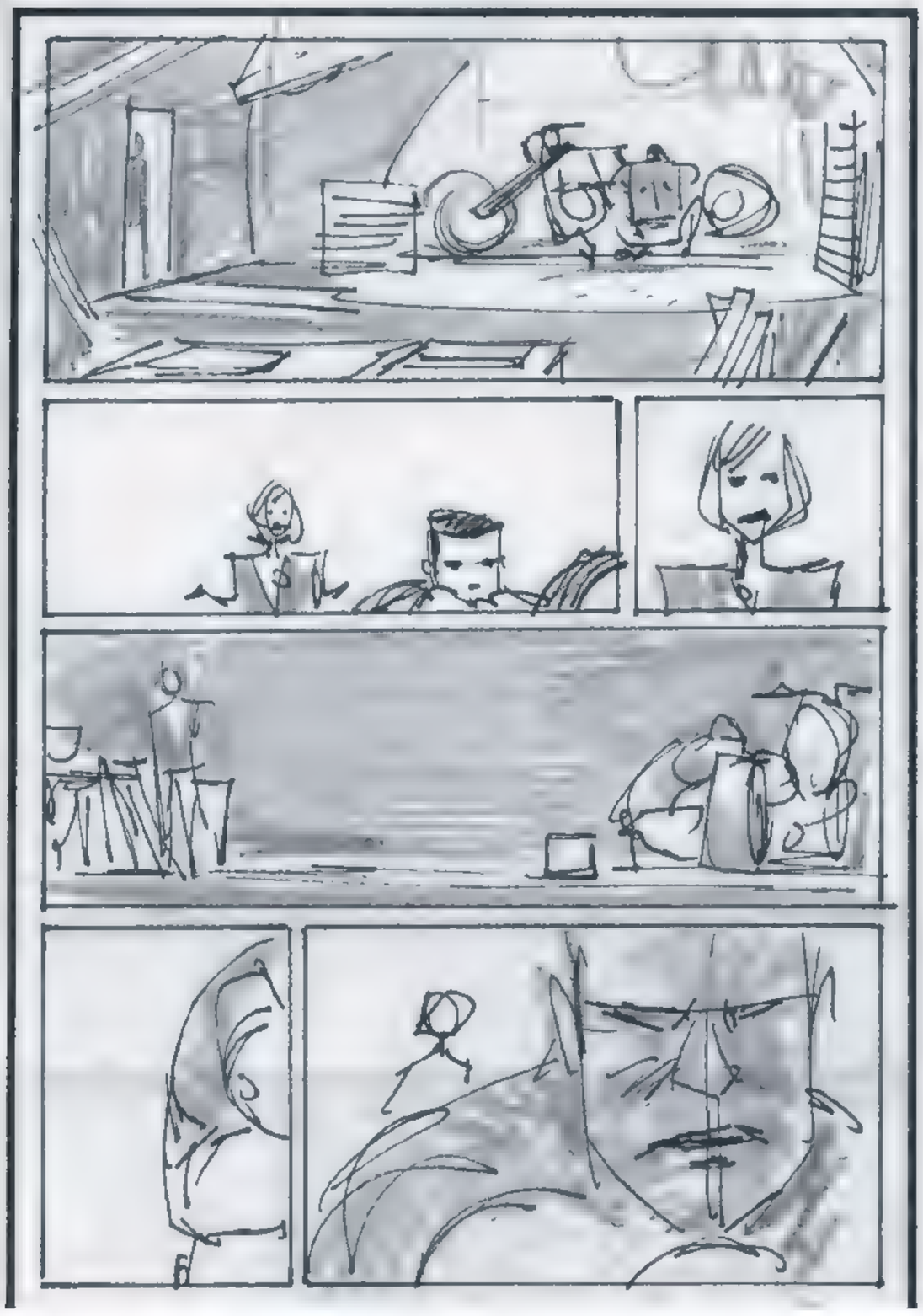

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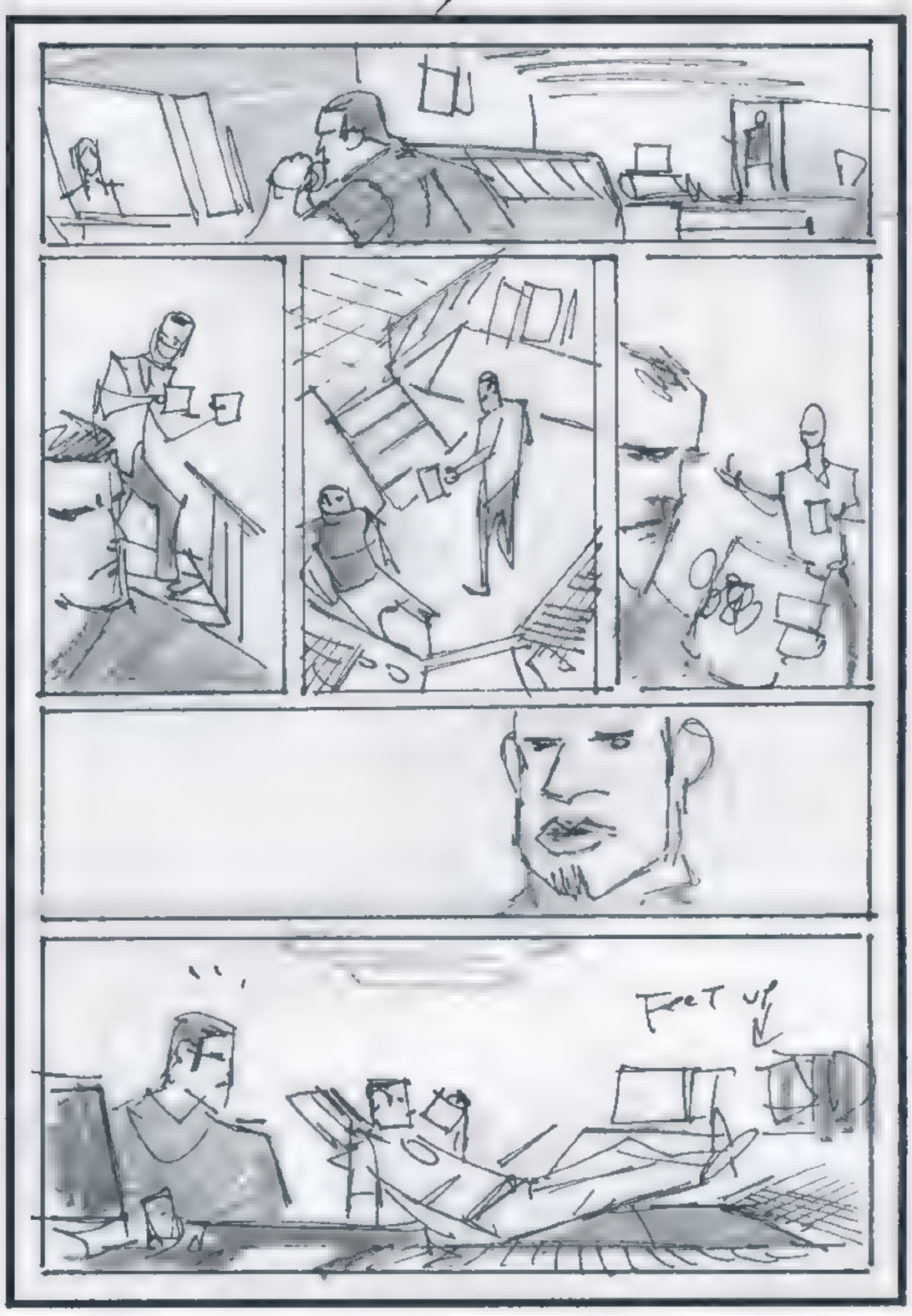

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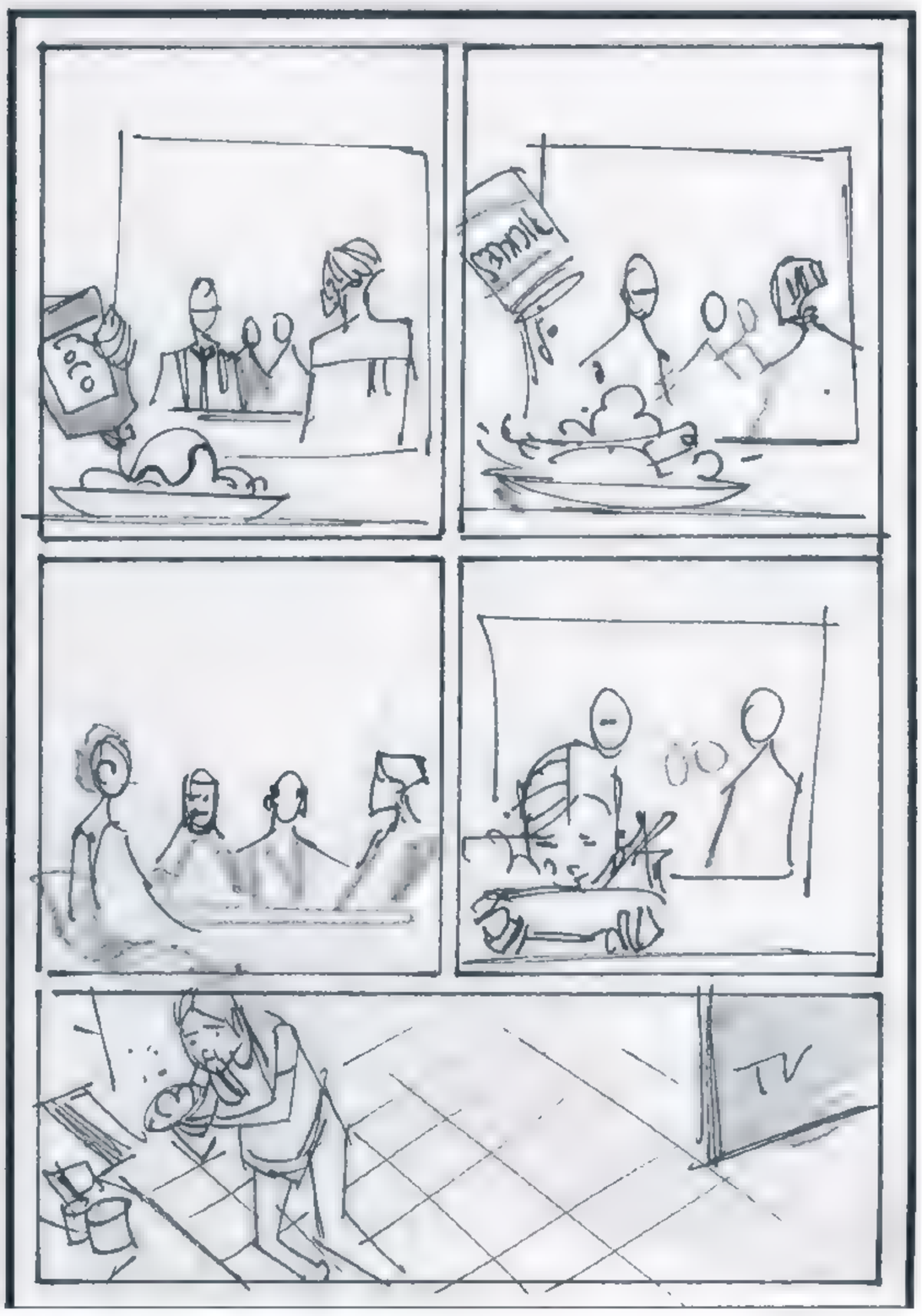

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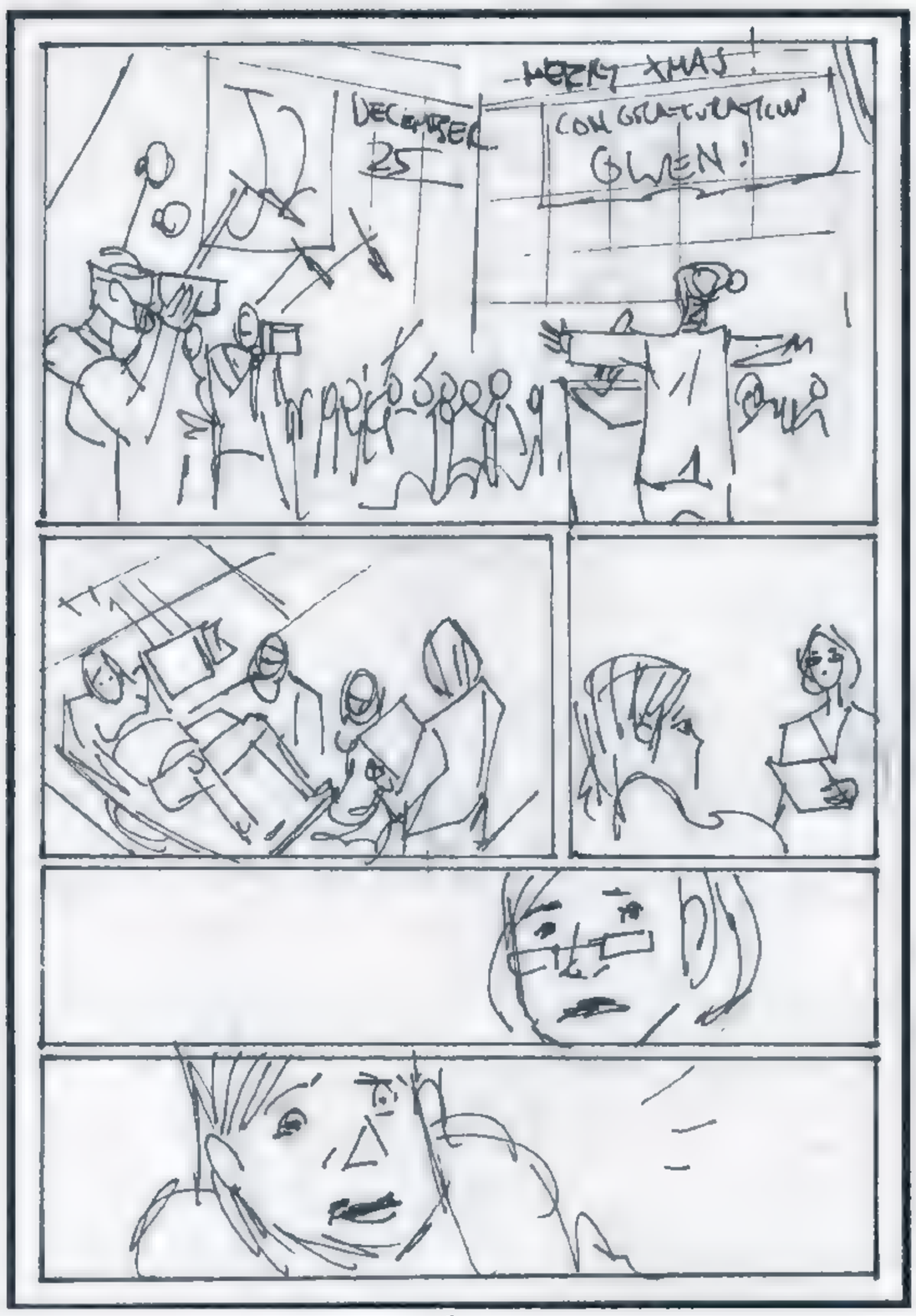
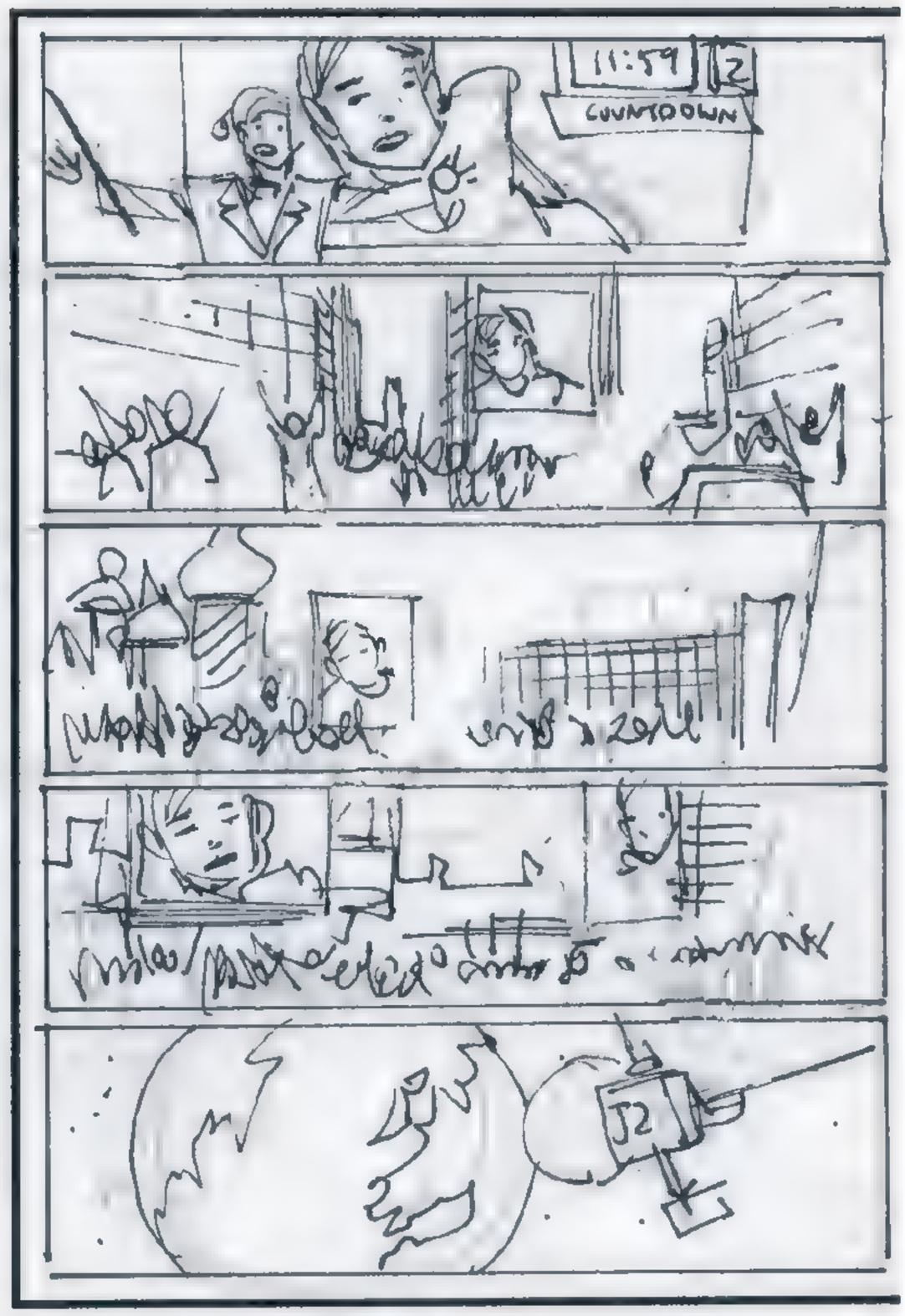

MERRY XMAS
DECEMBER 25
CONGRATULATION GWEN!
1

Z6


11:59
12
COUNTDOWN
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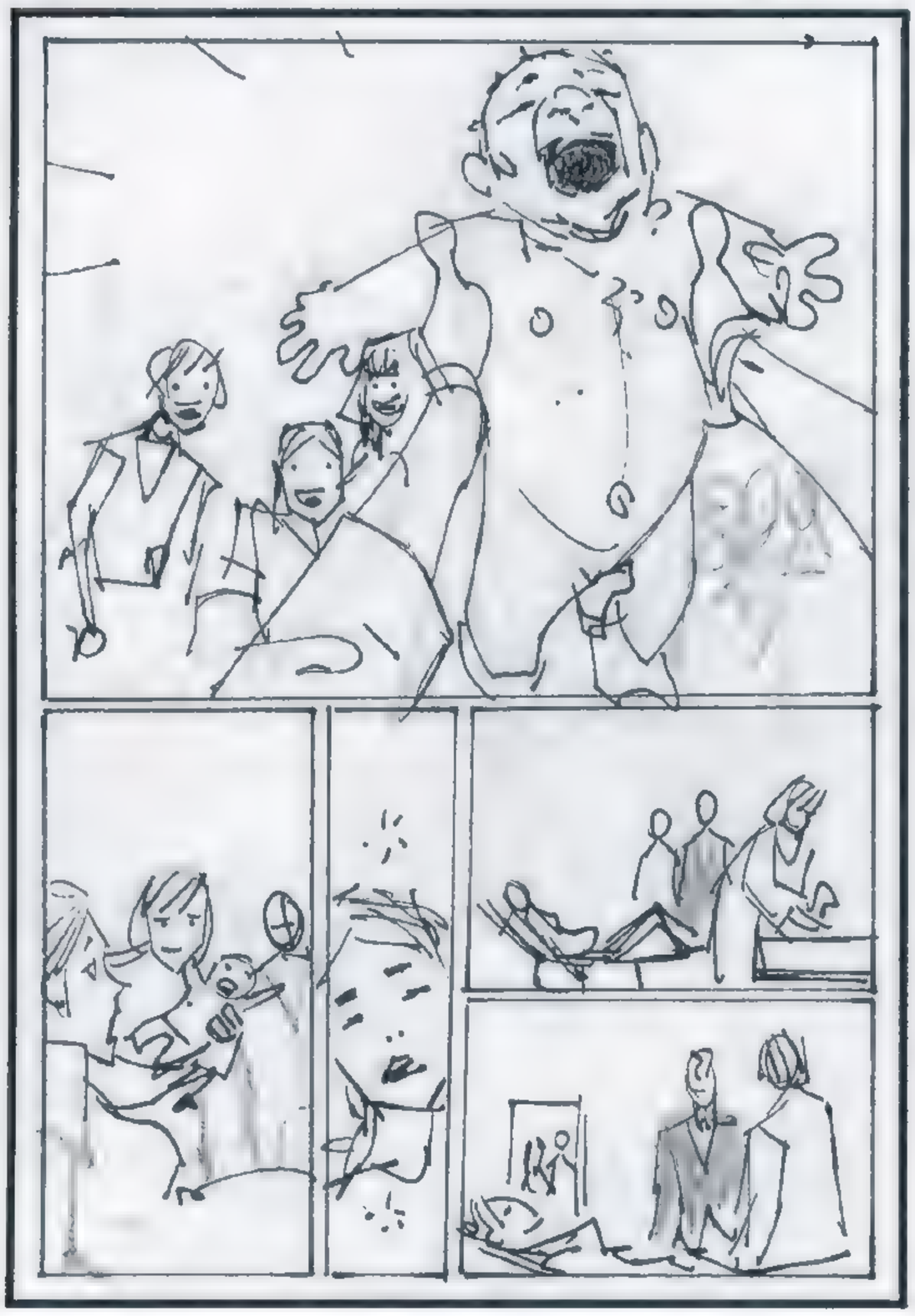

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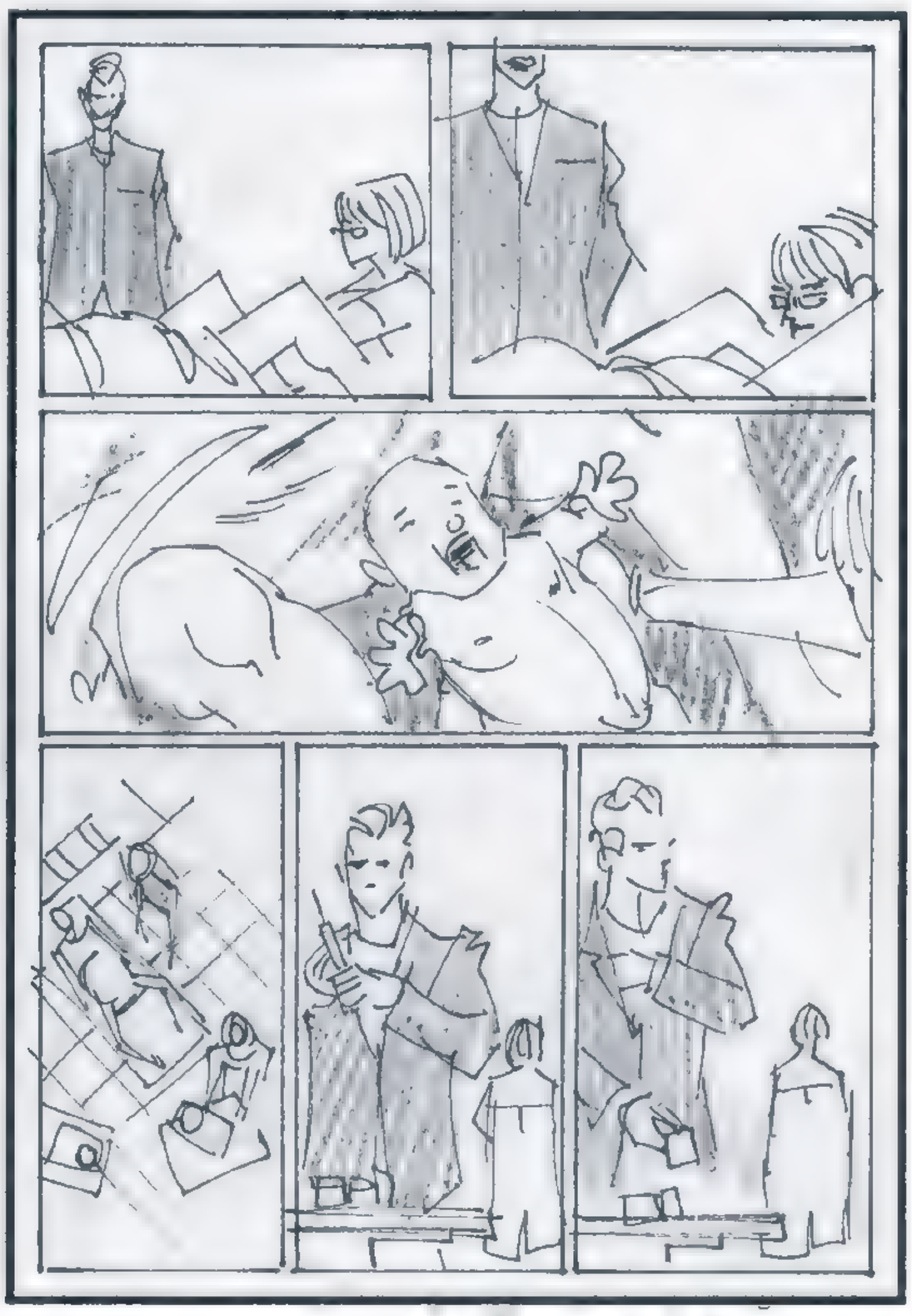

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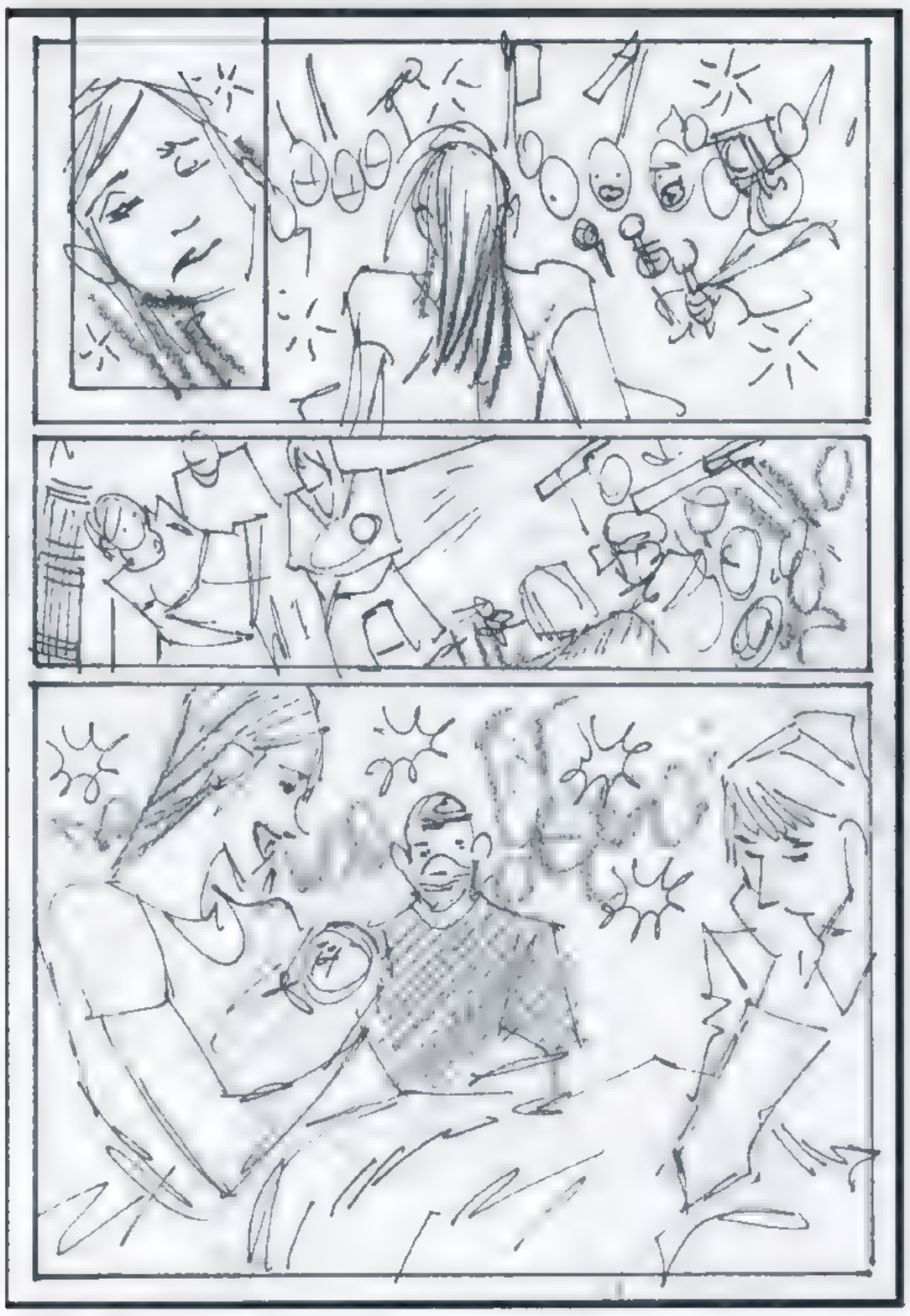

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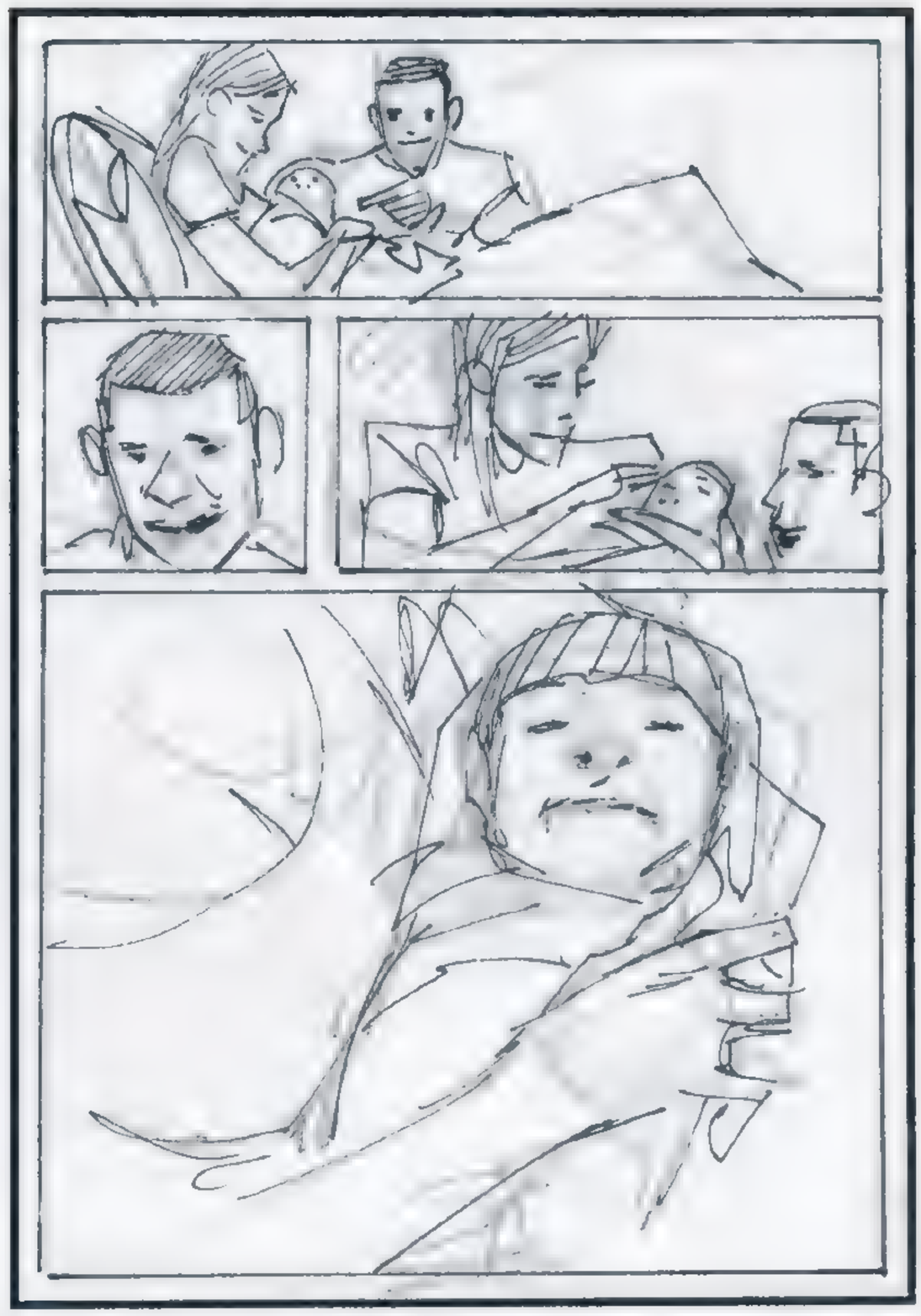

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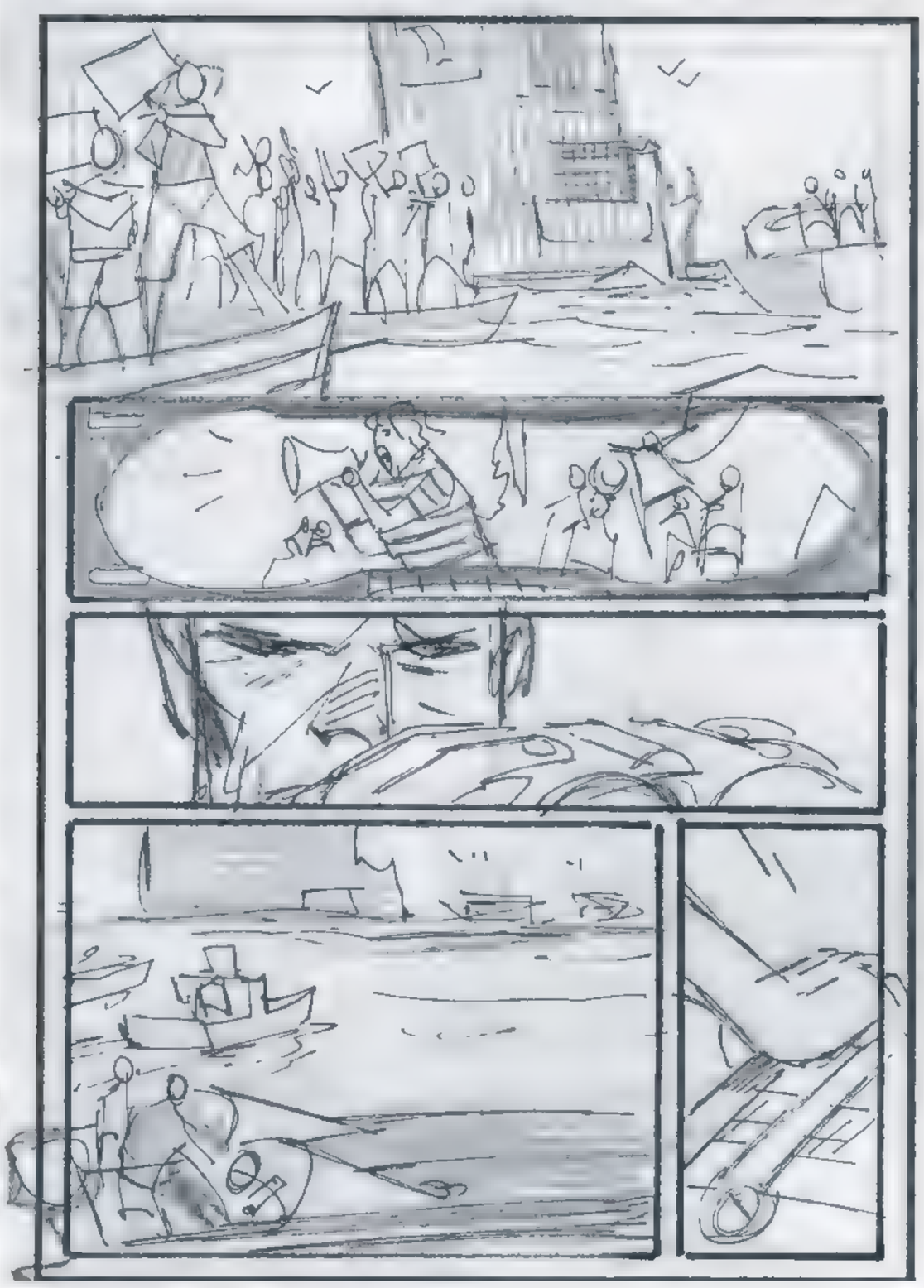

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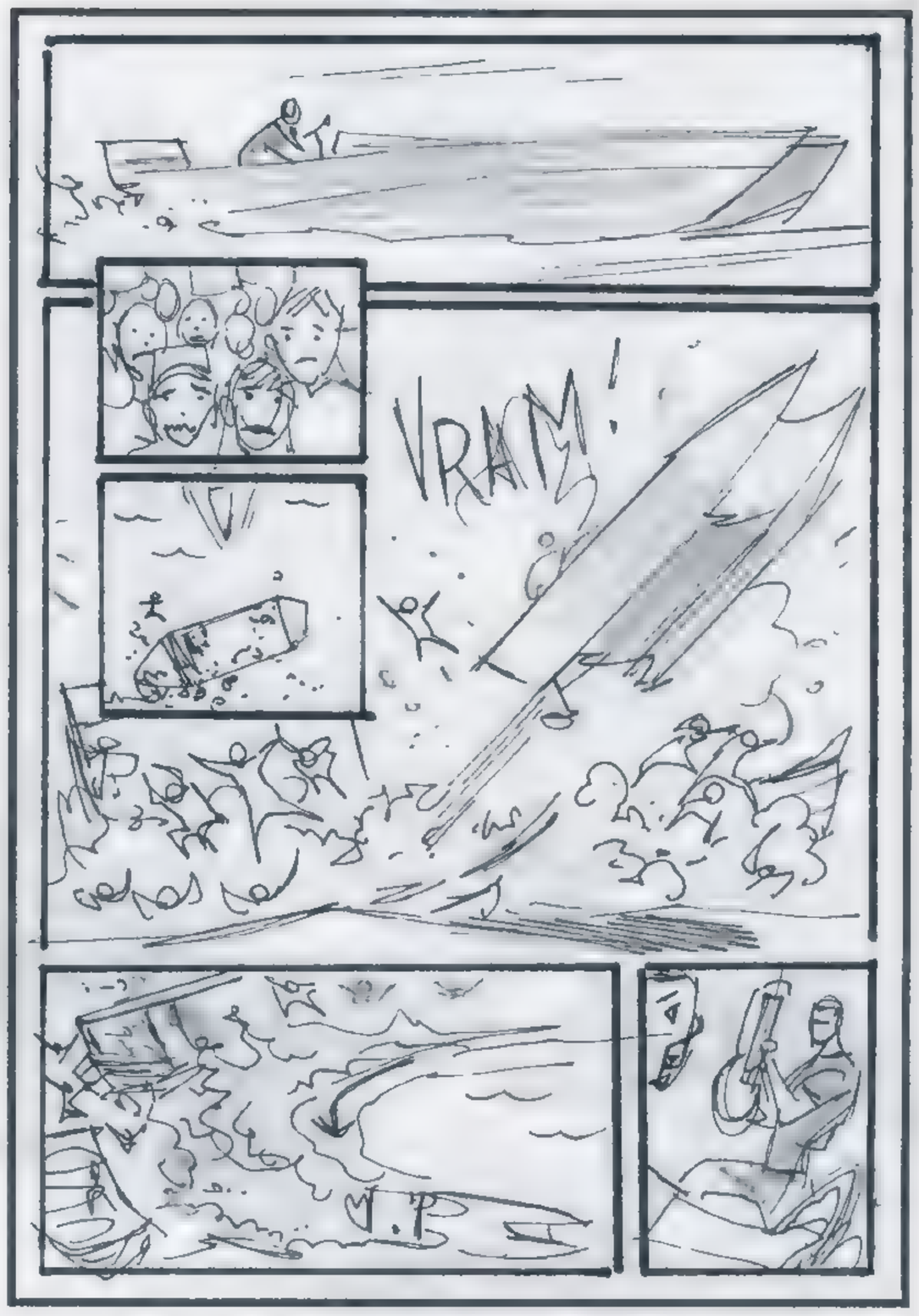

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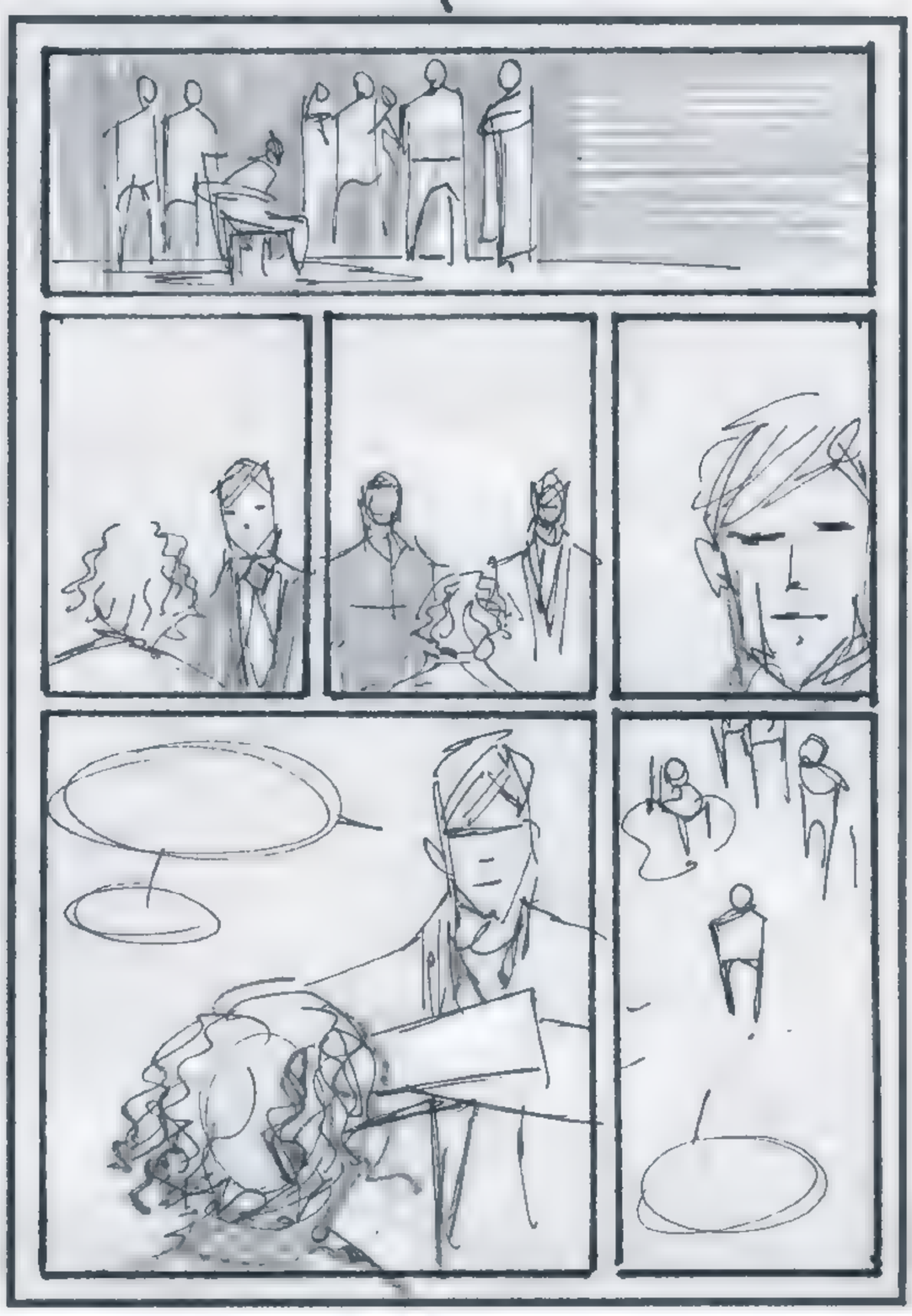

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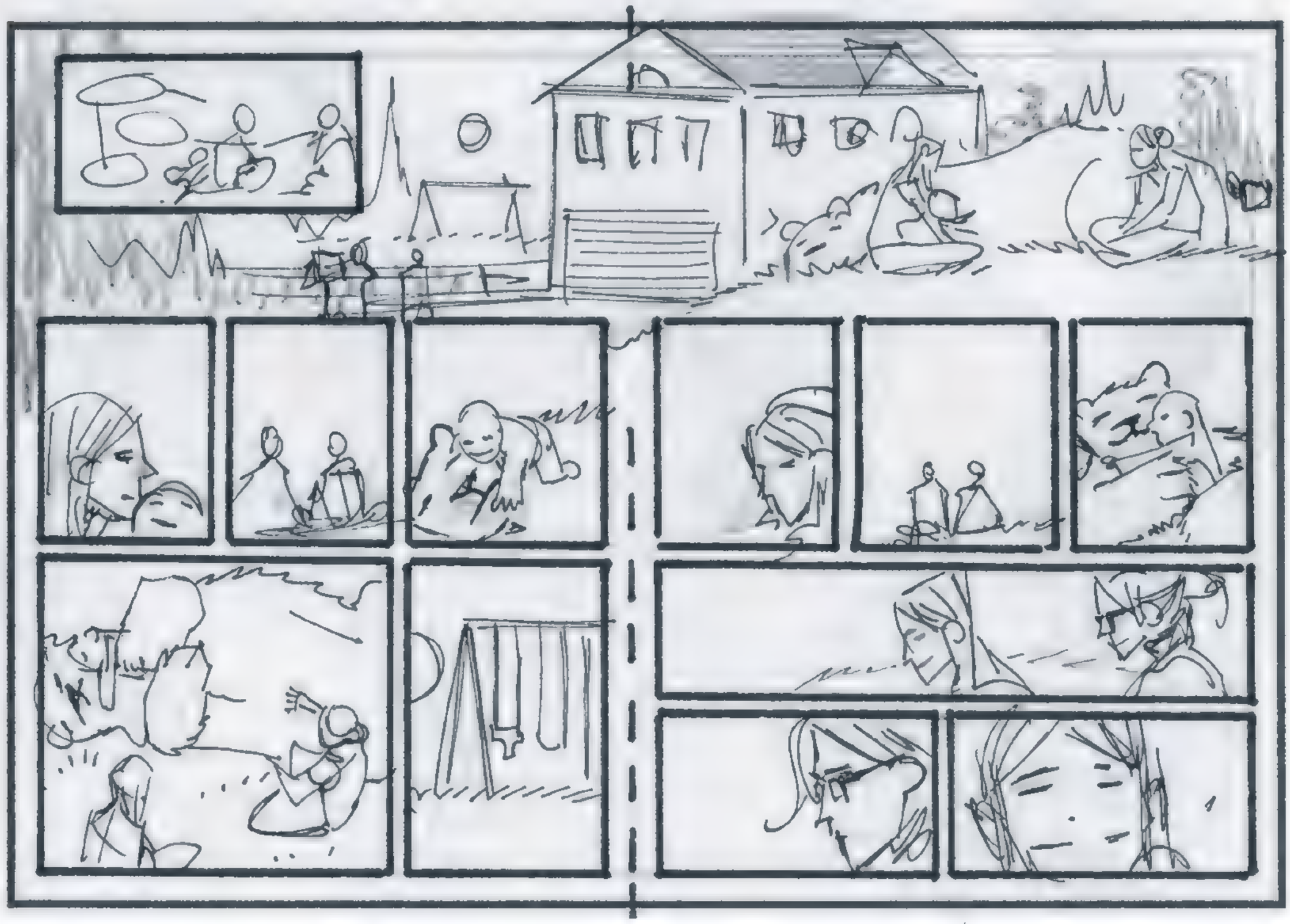

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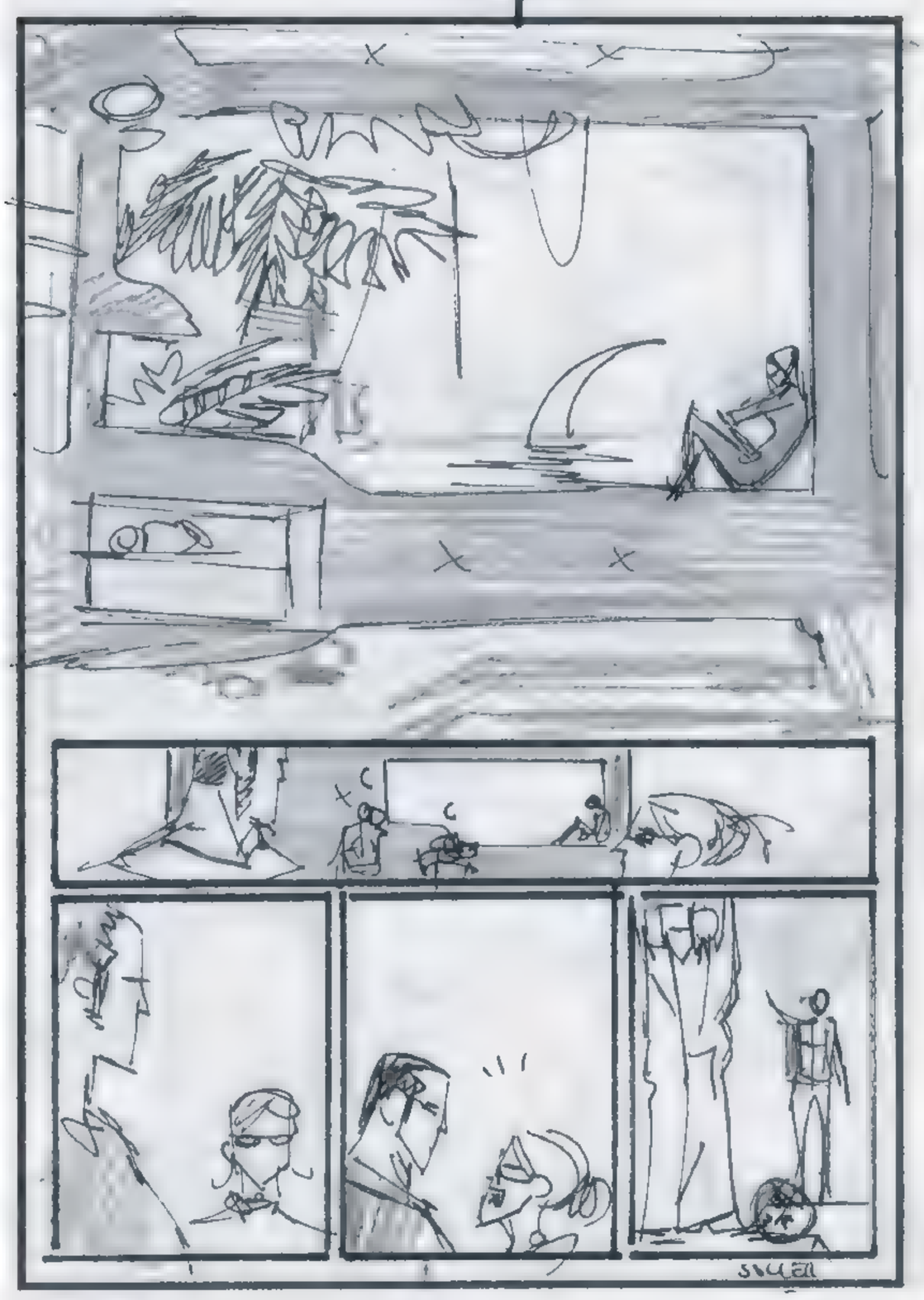

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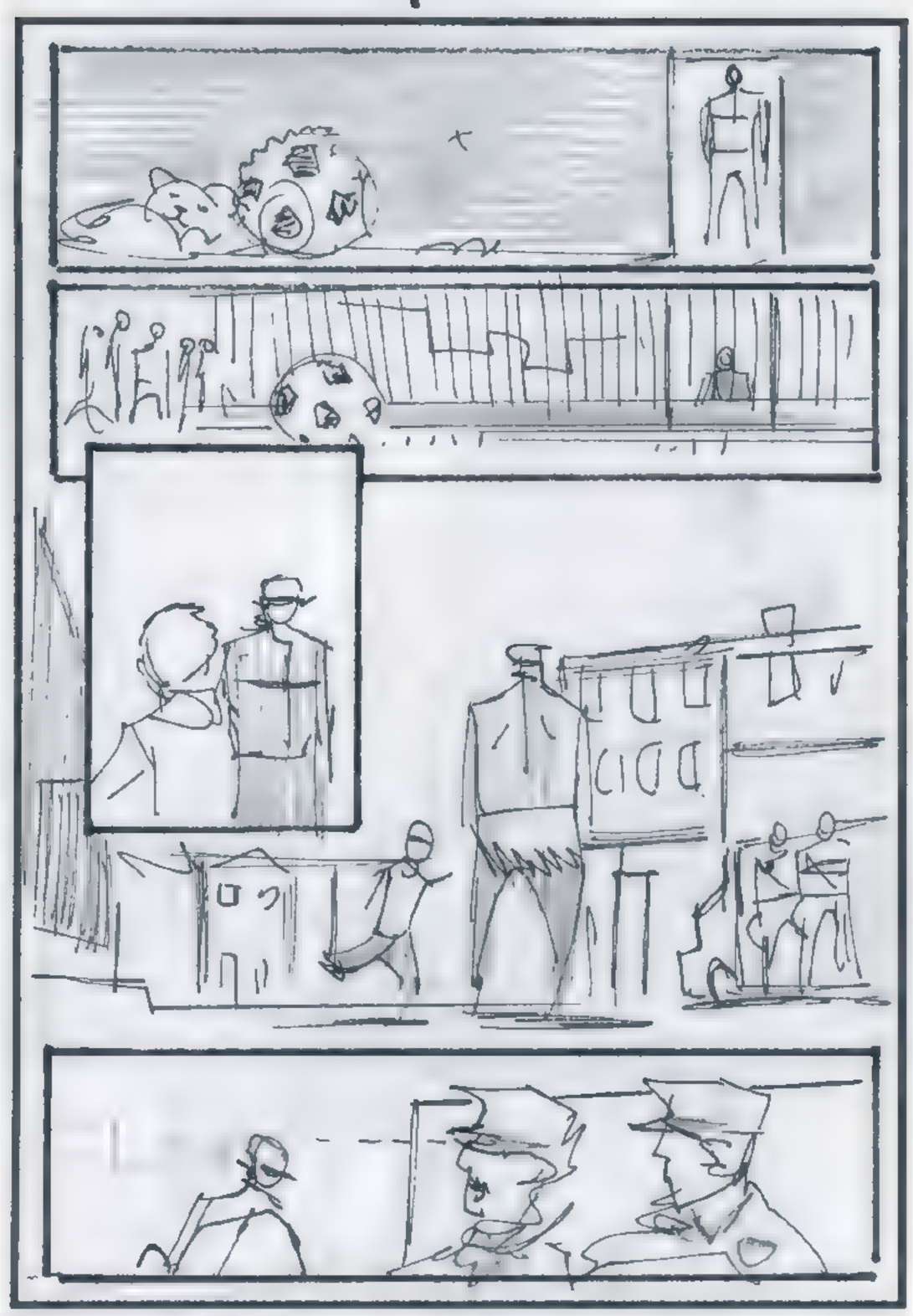

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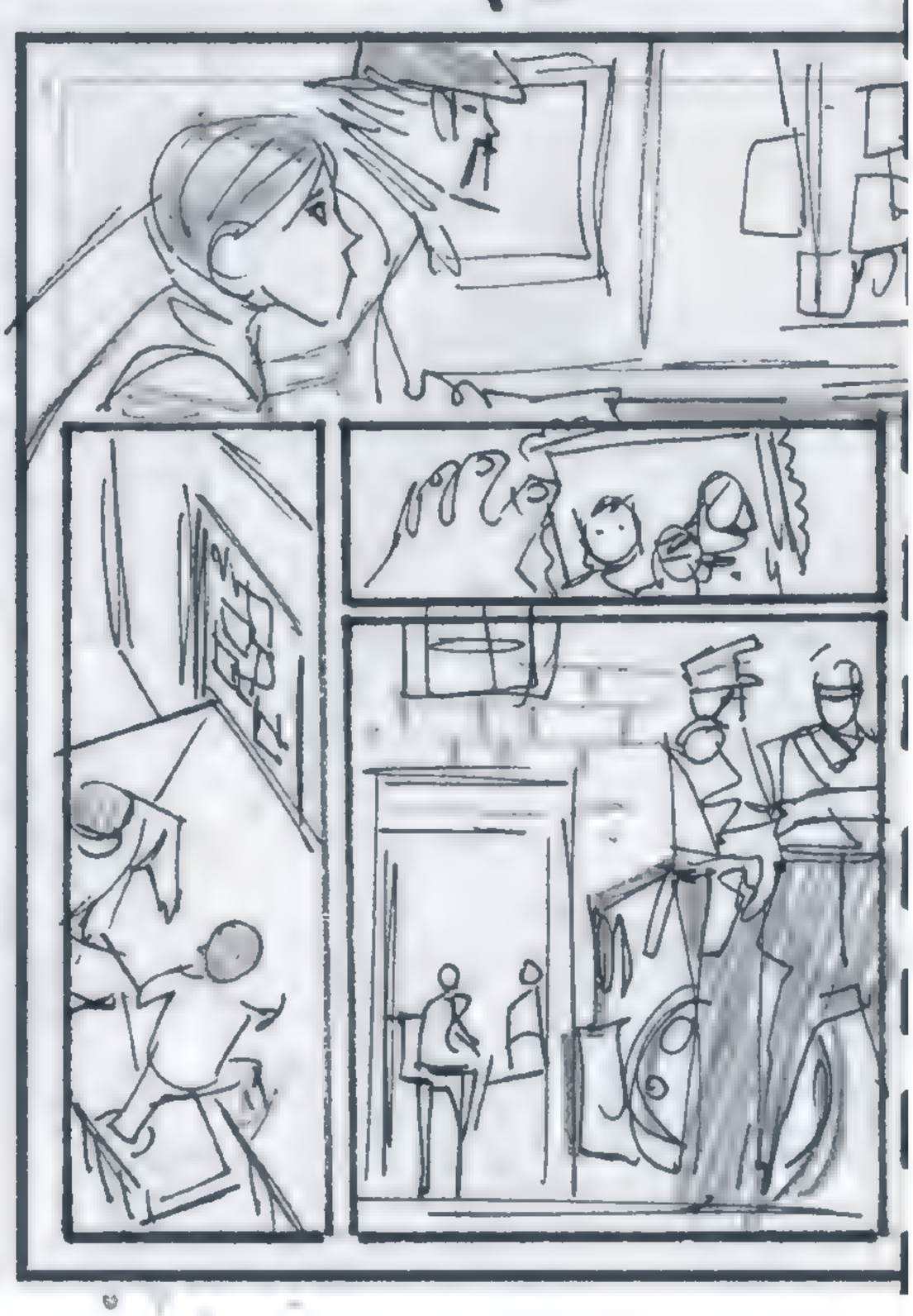

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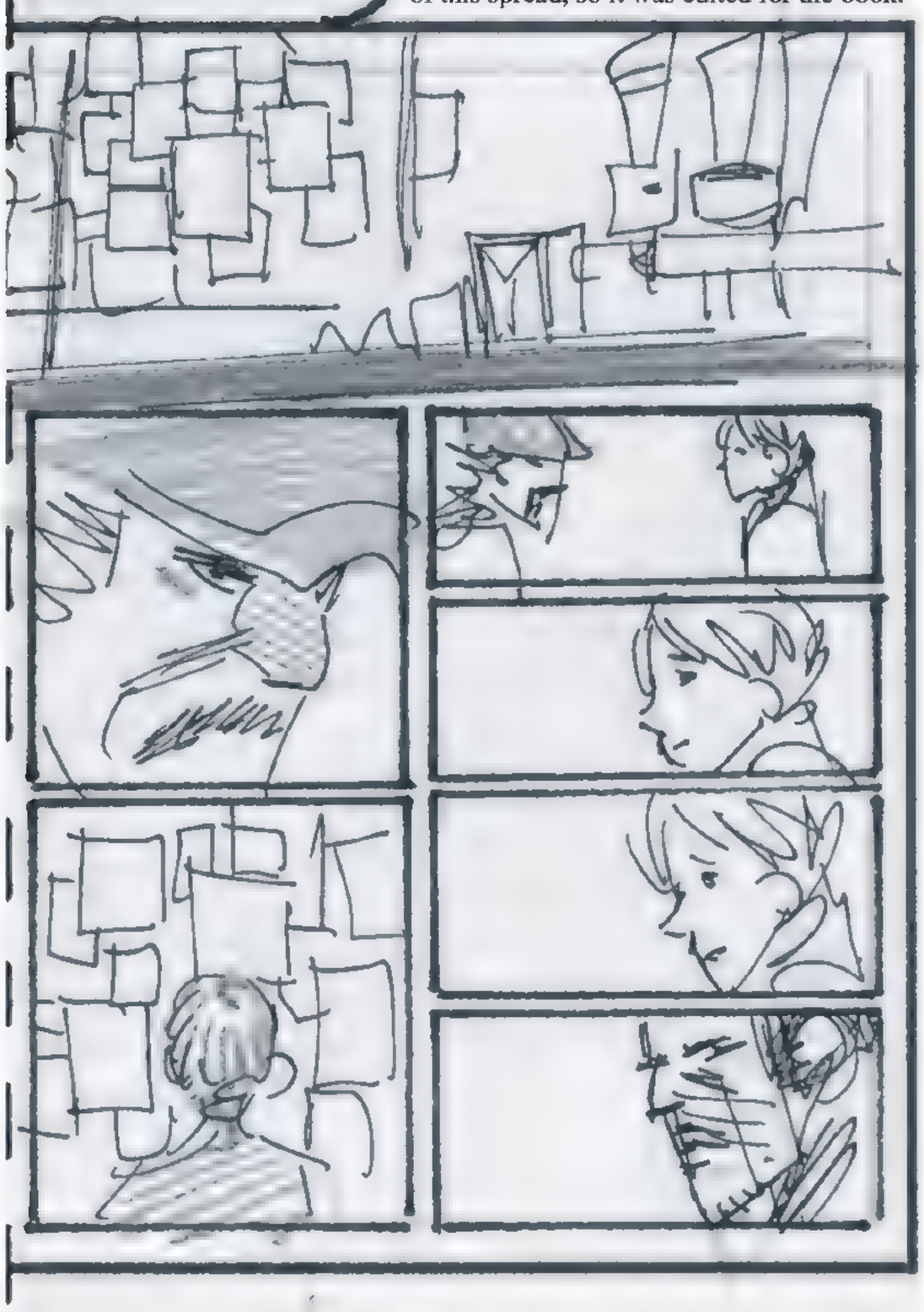
*I messed up the even/odd placement of this spread, so it was edited for the book.



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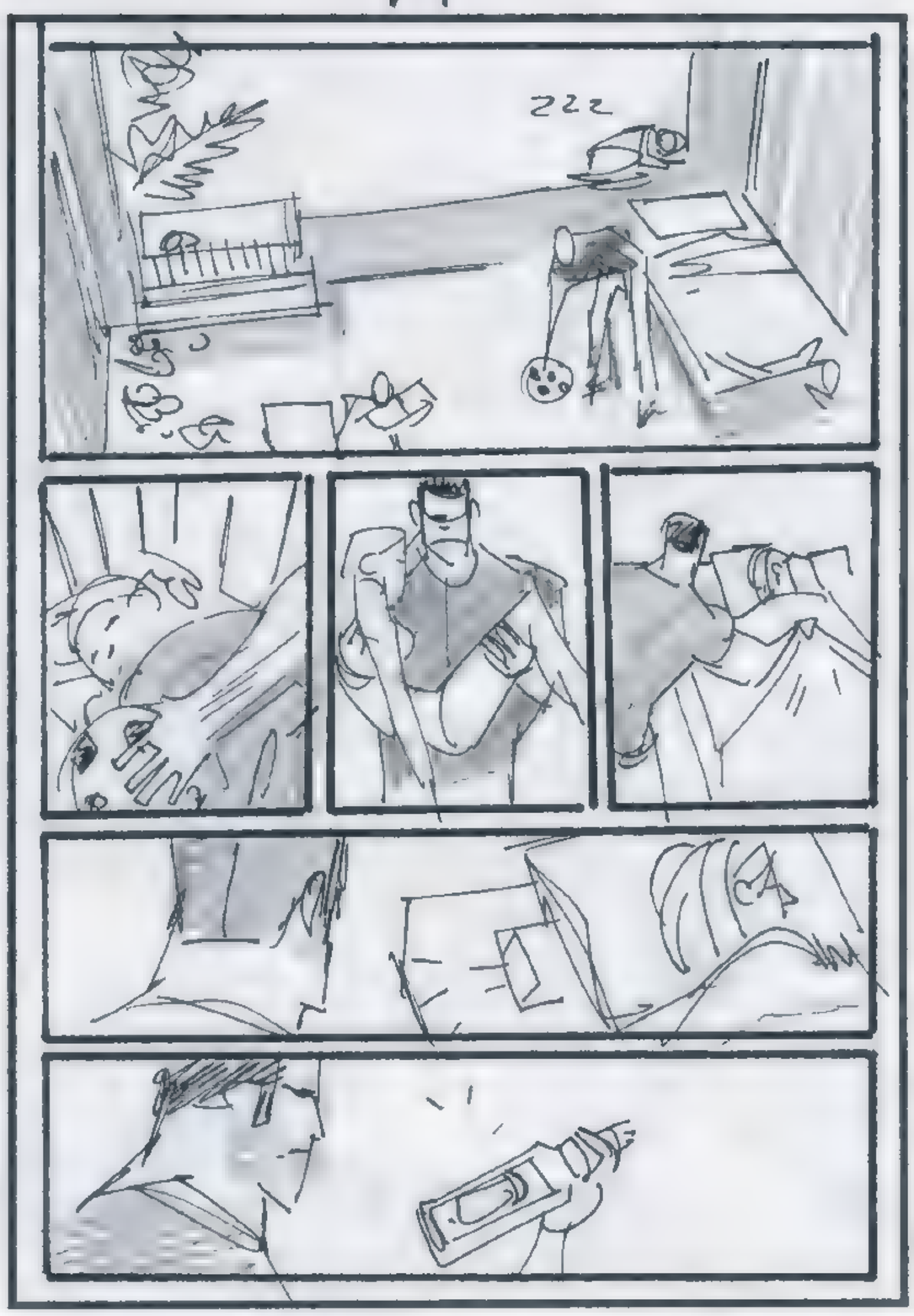

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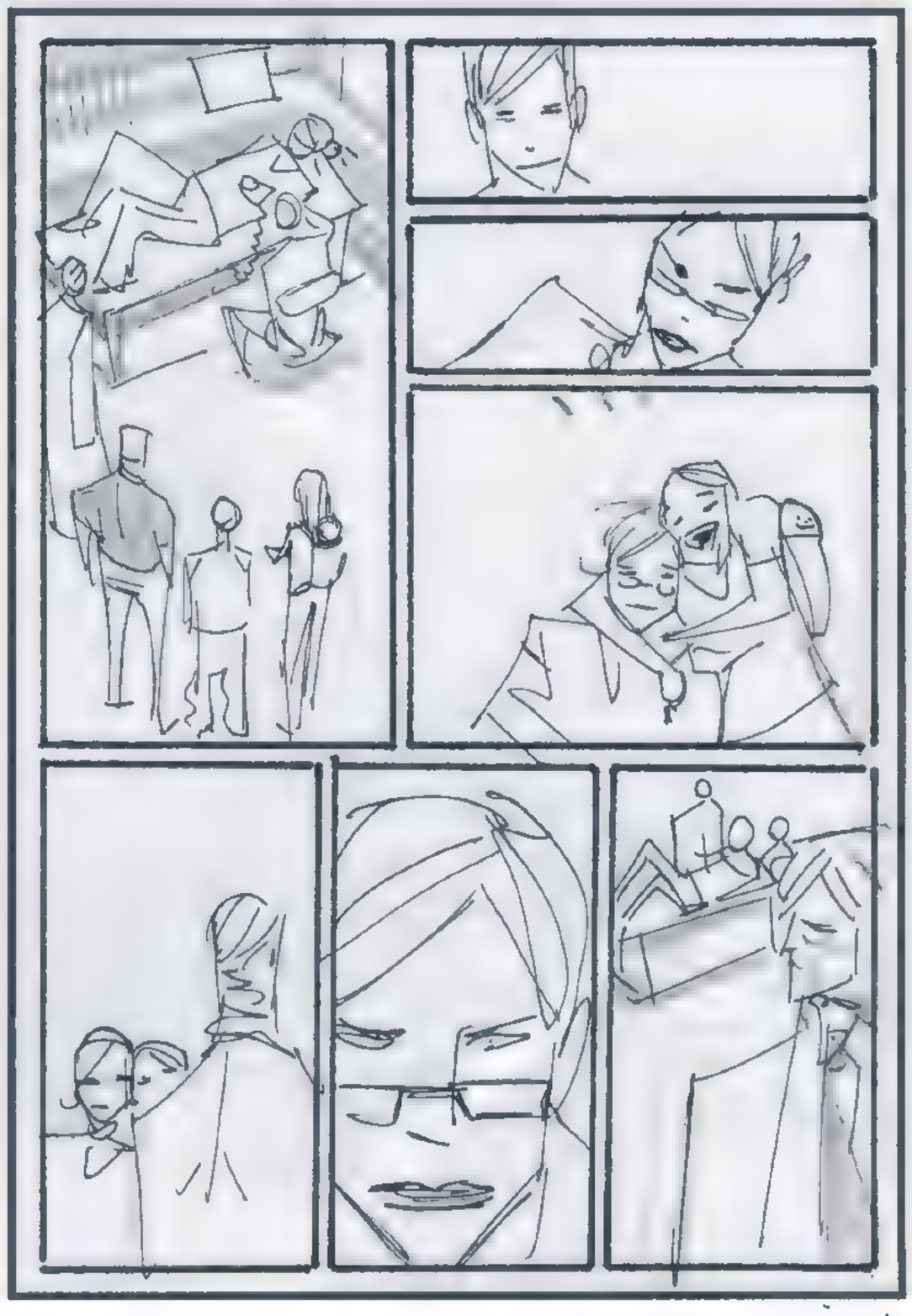

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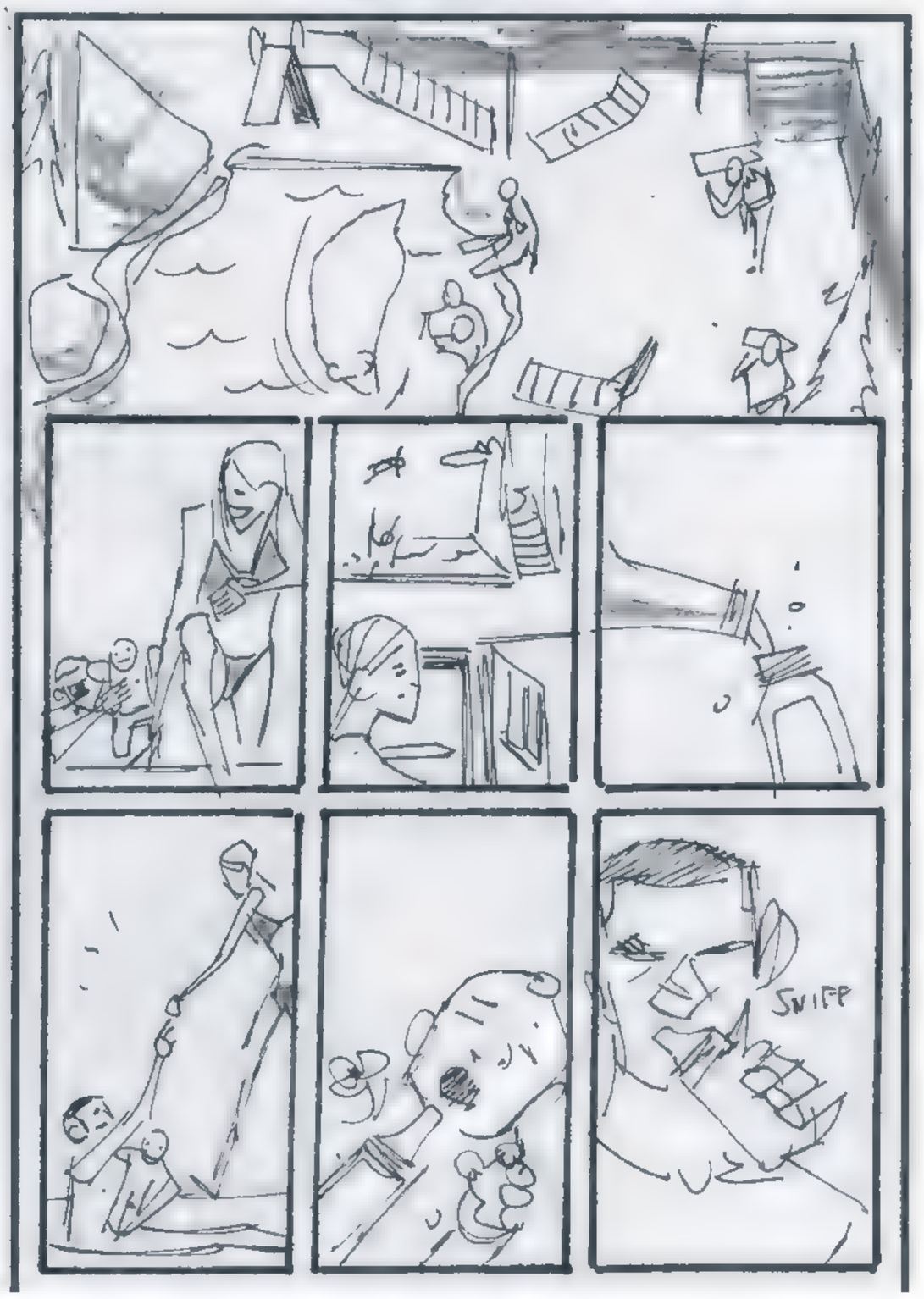

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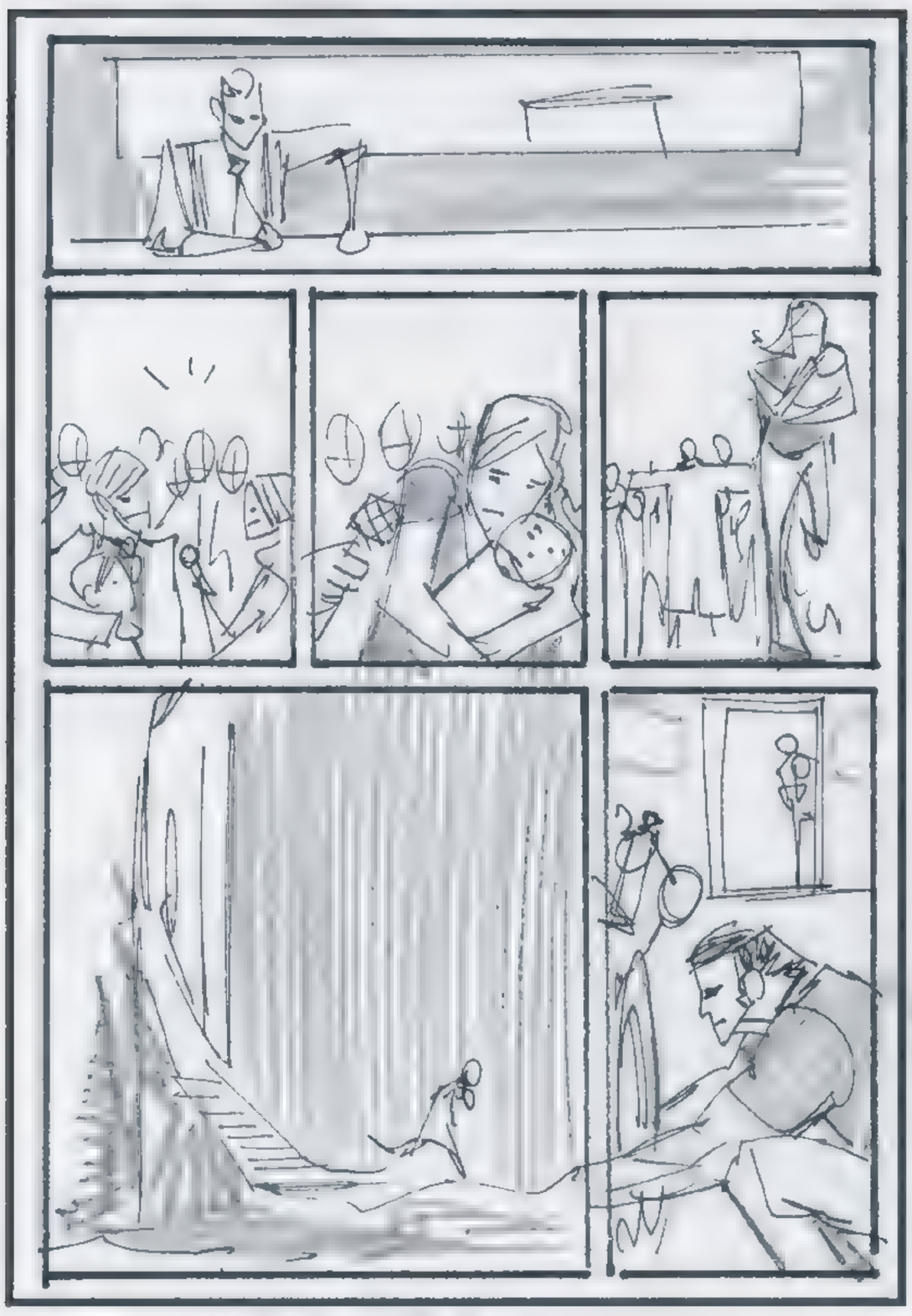

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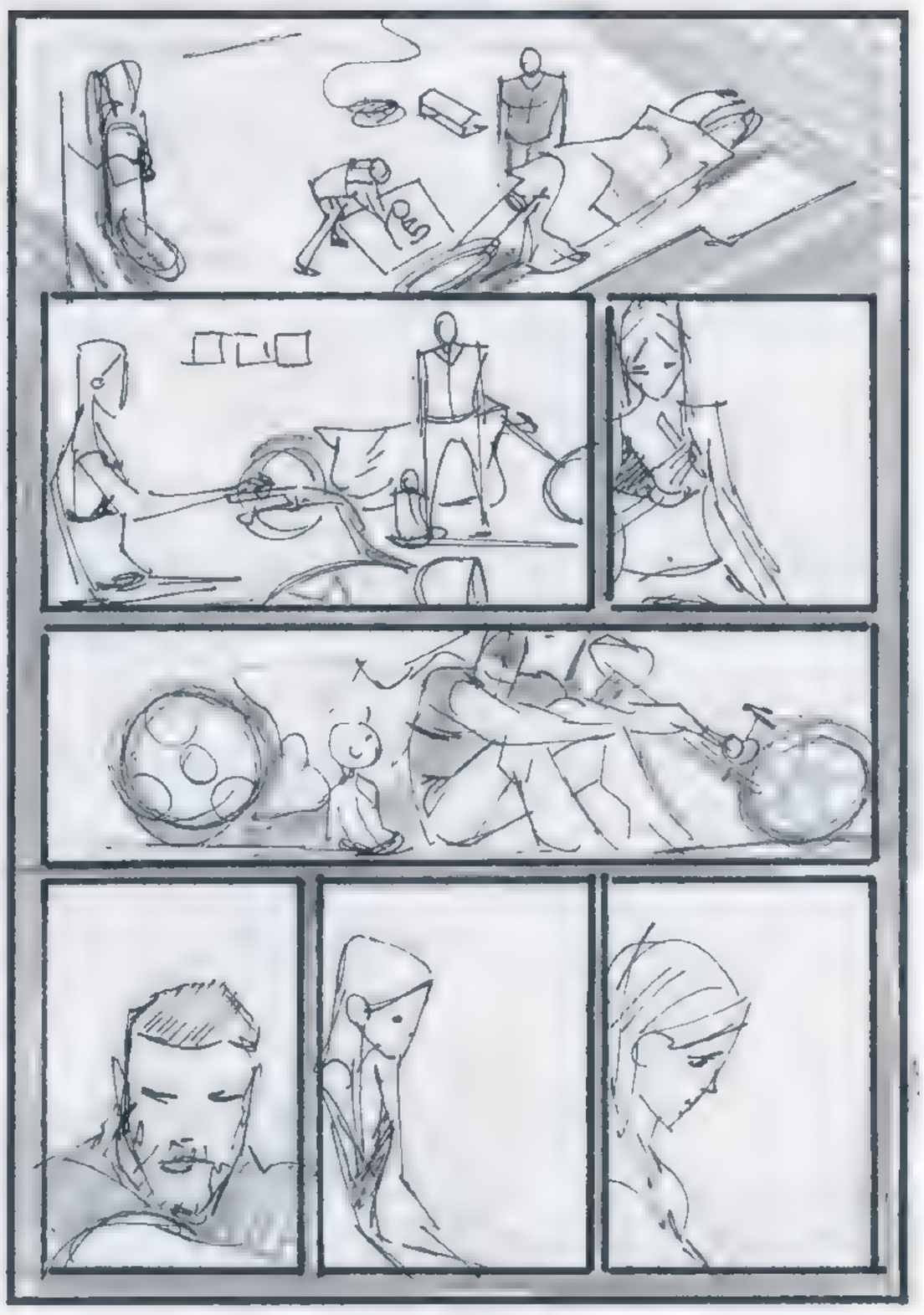

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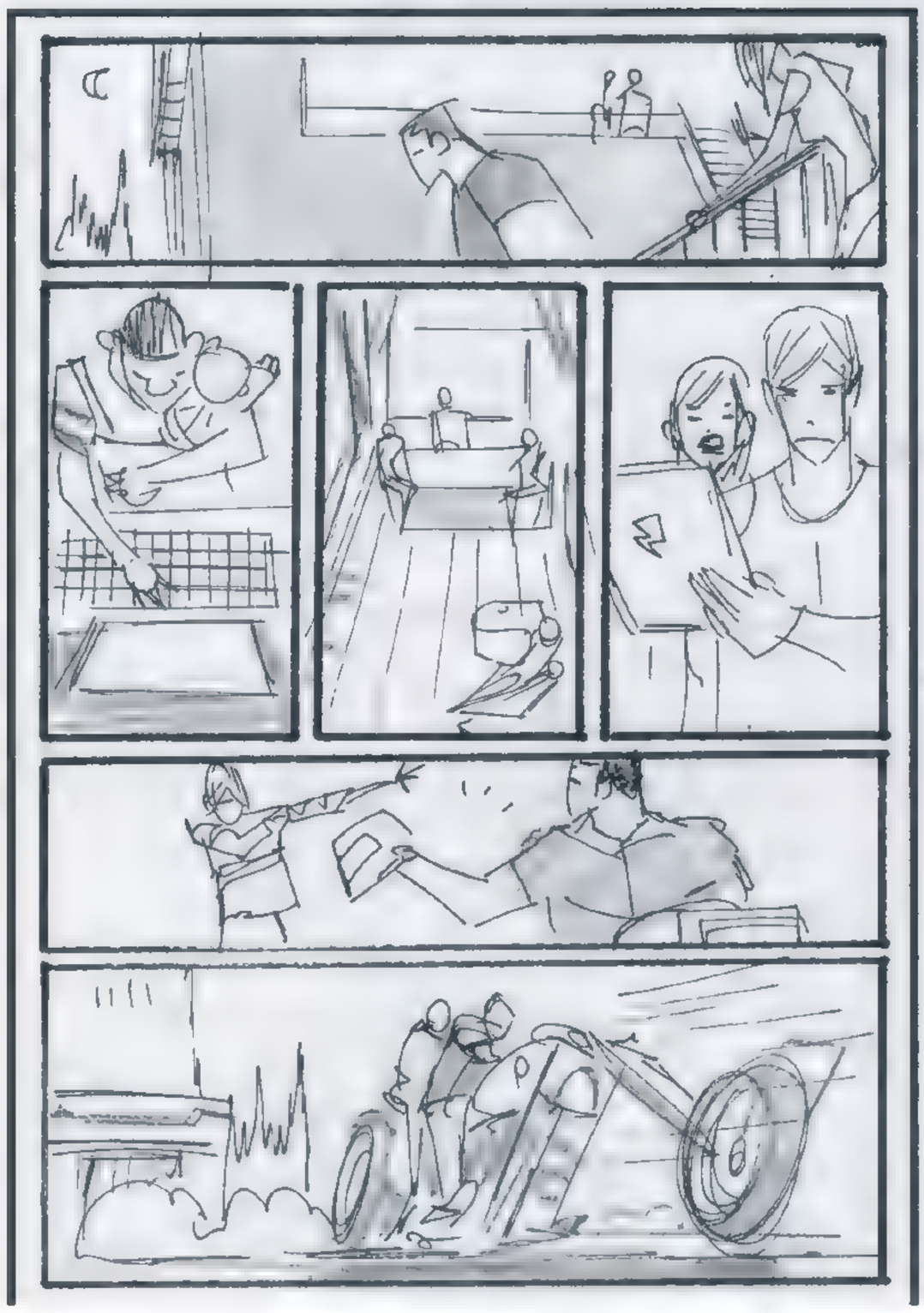

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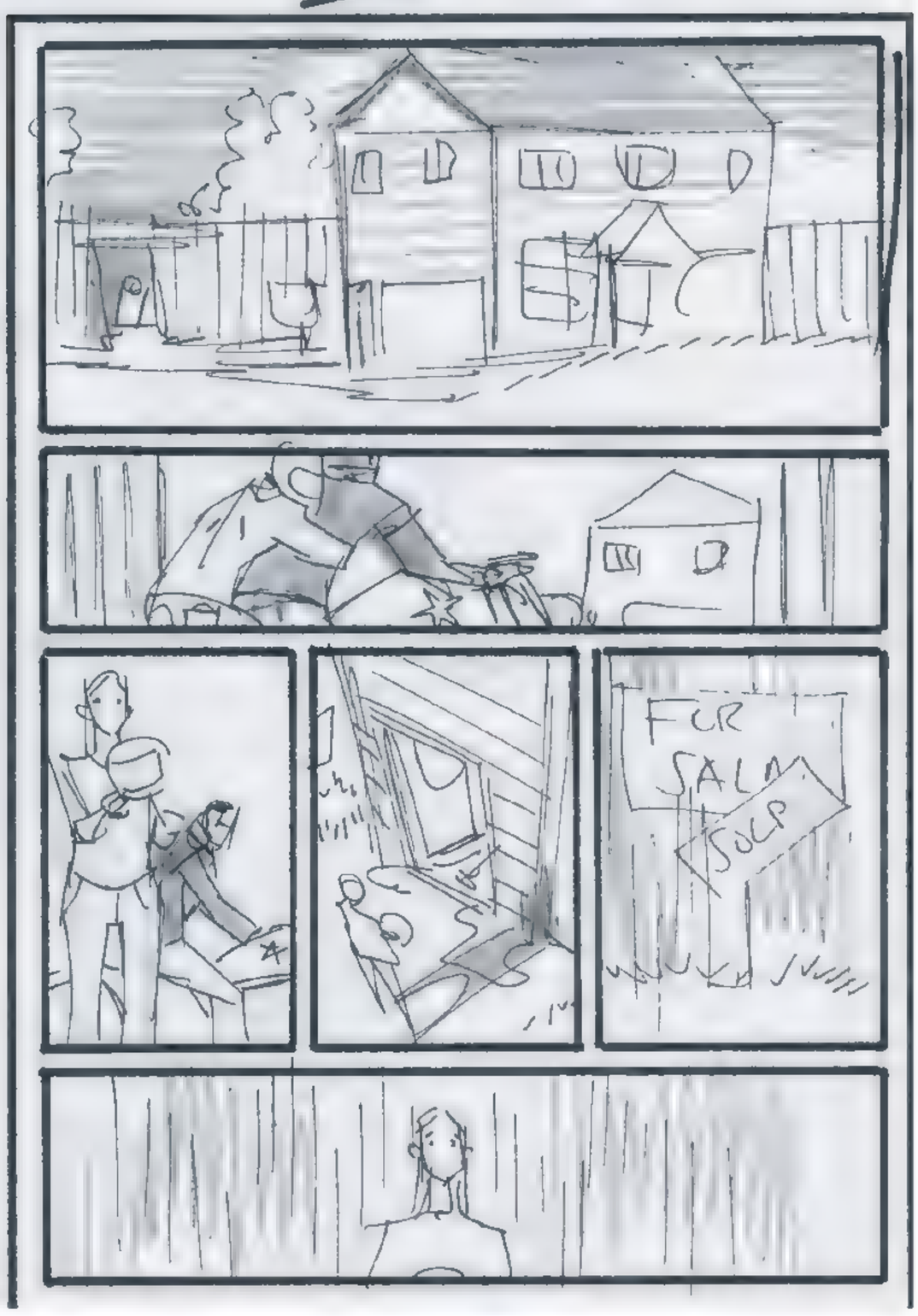

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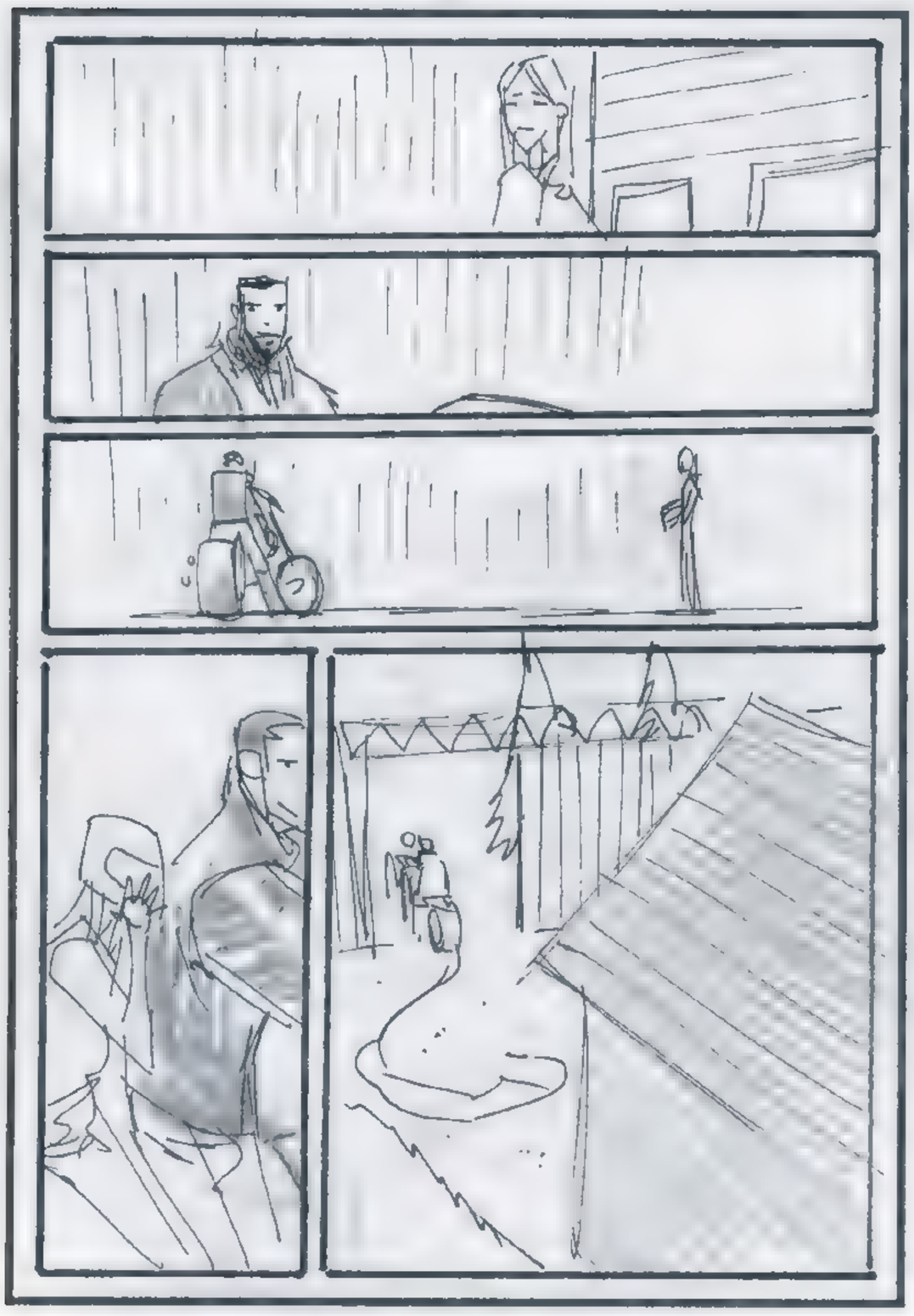

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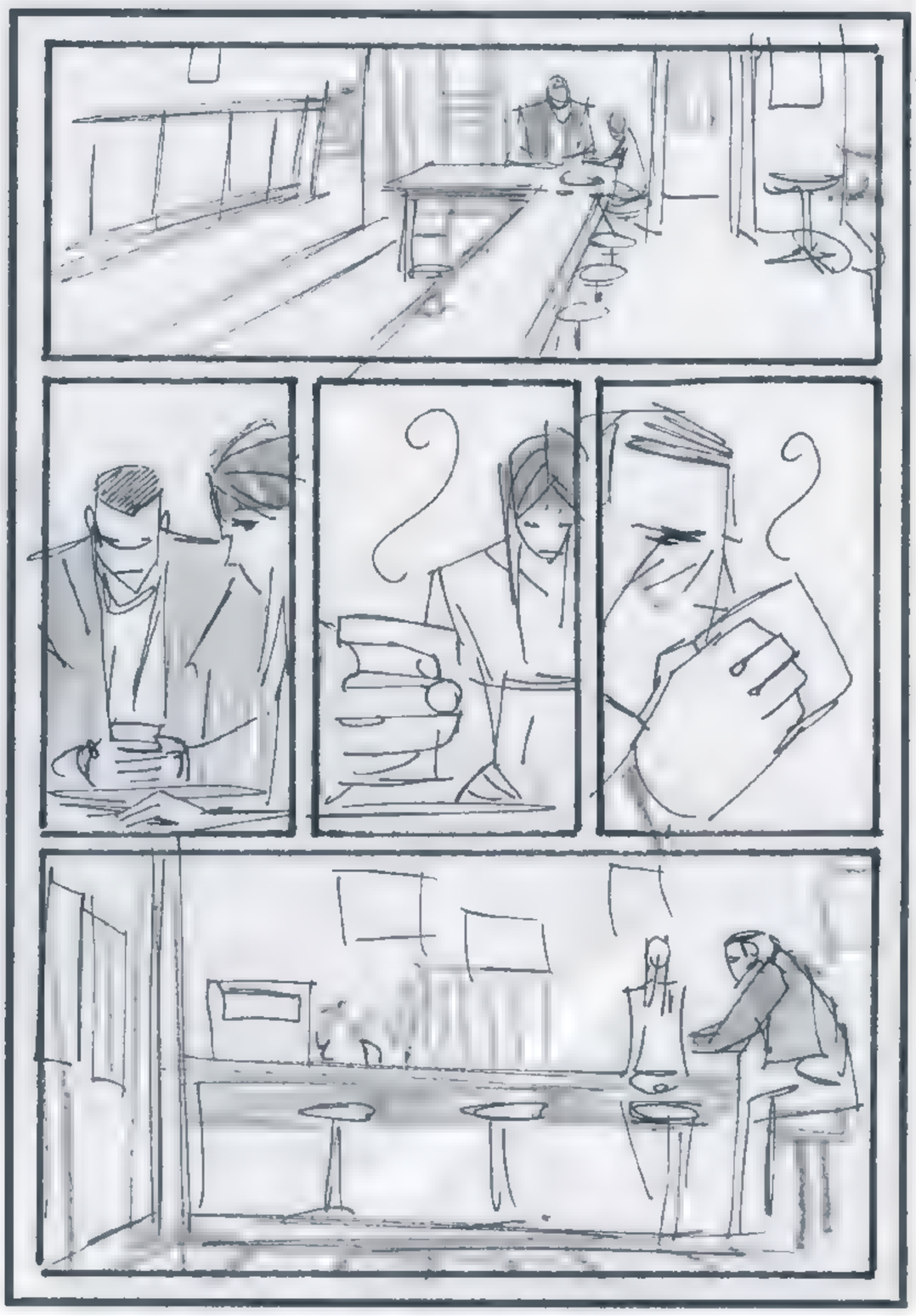

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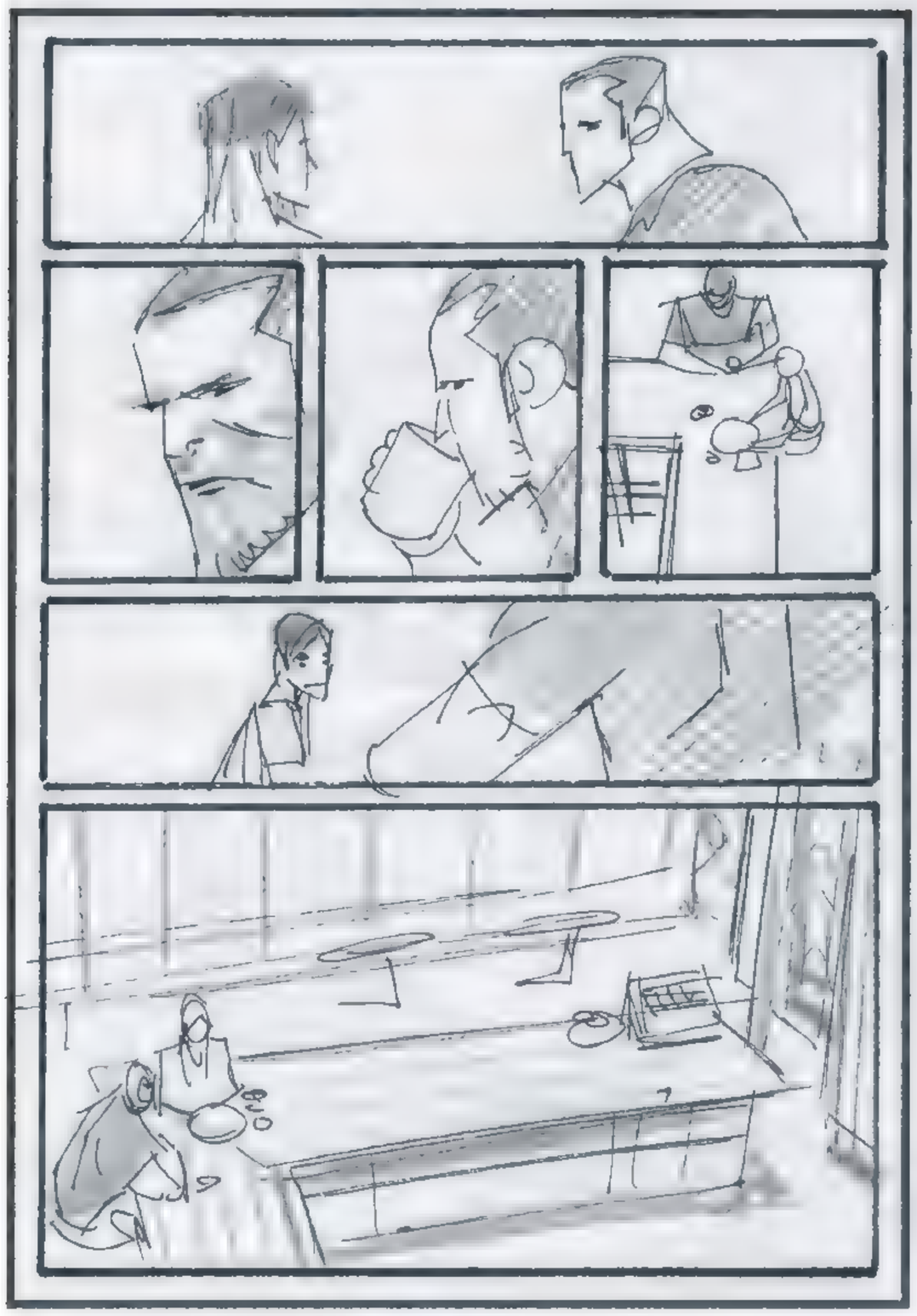

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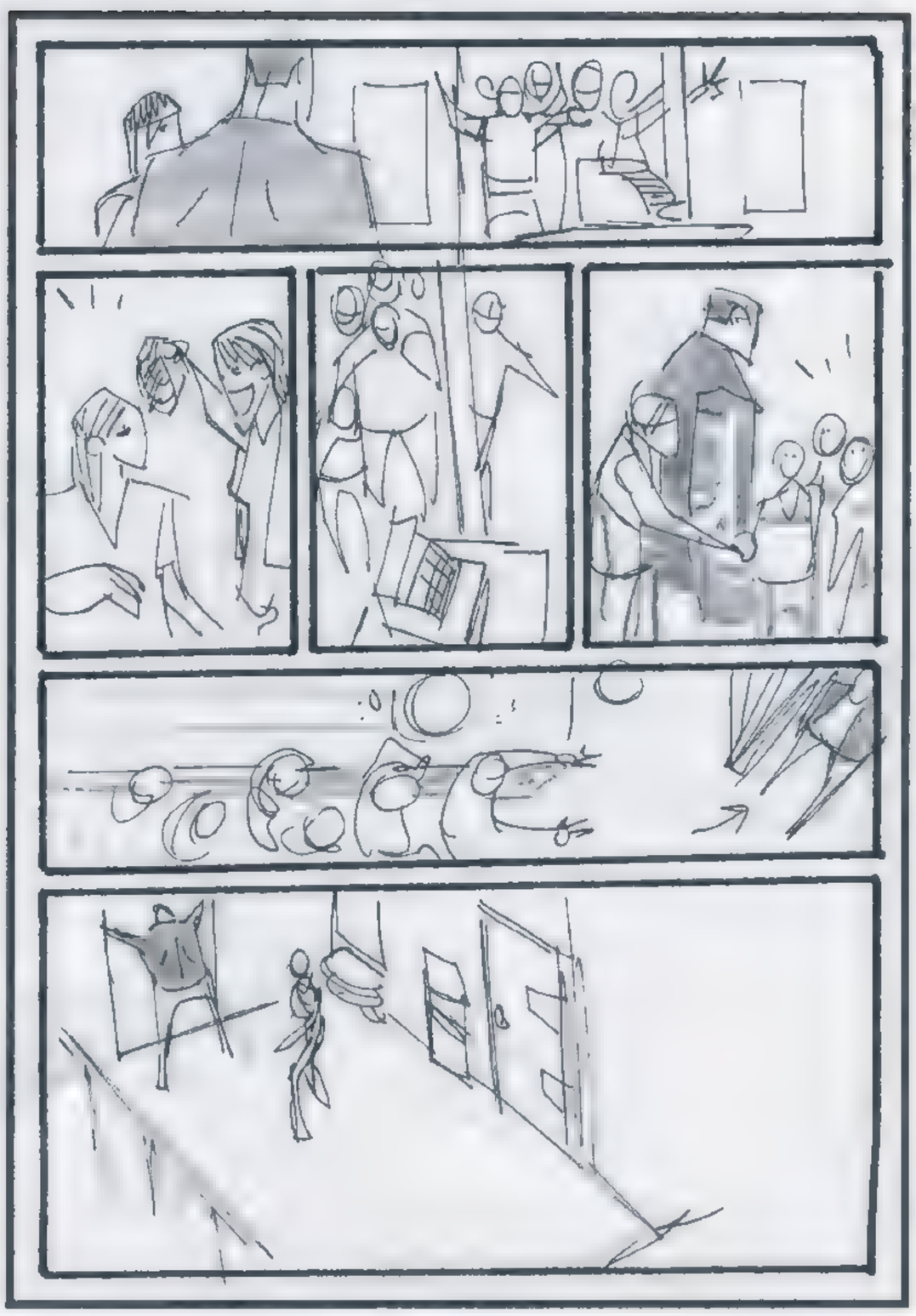

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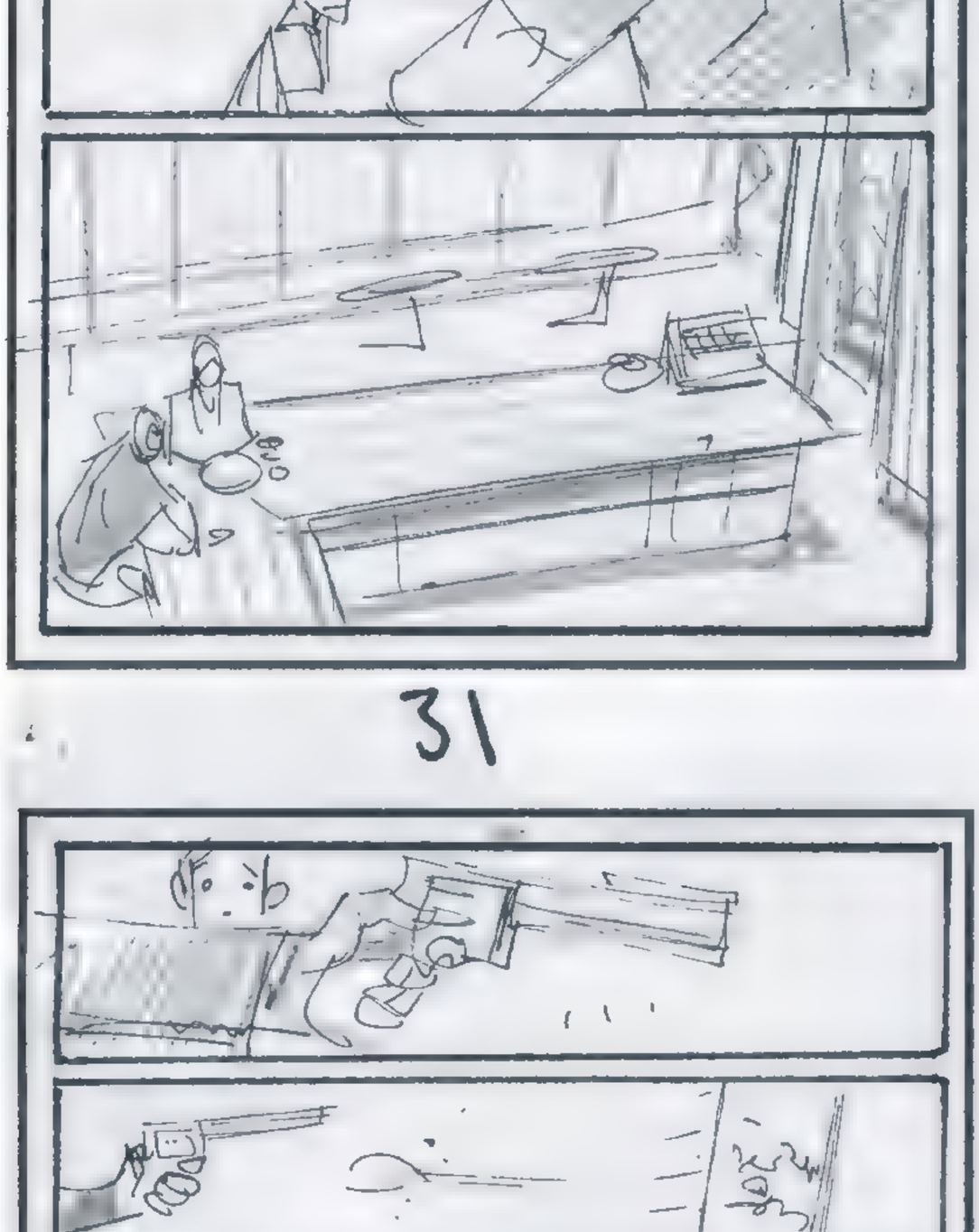

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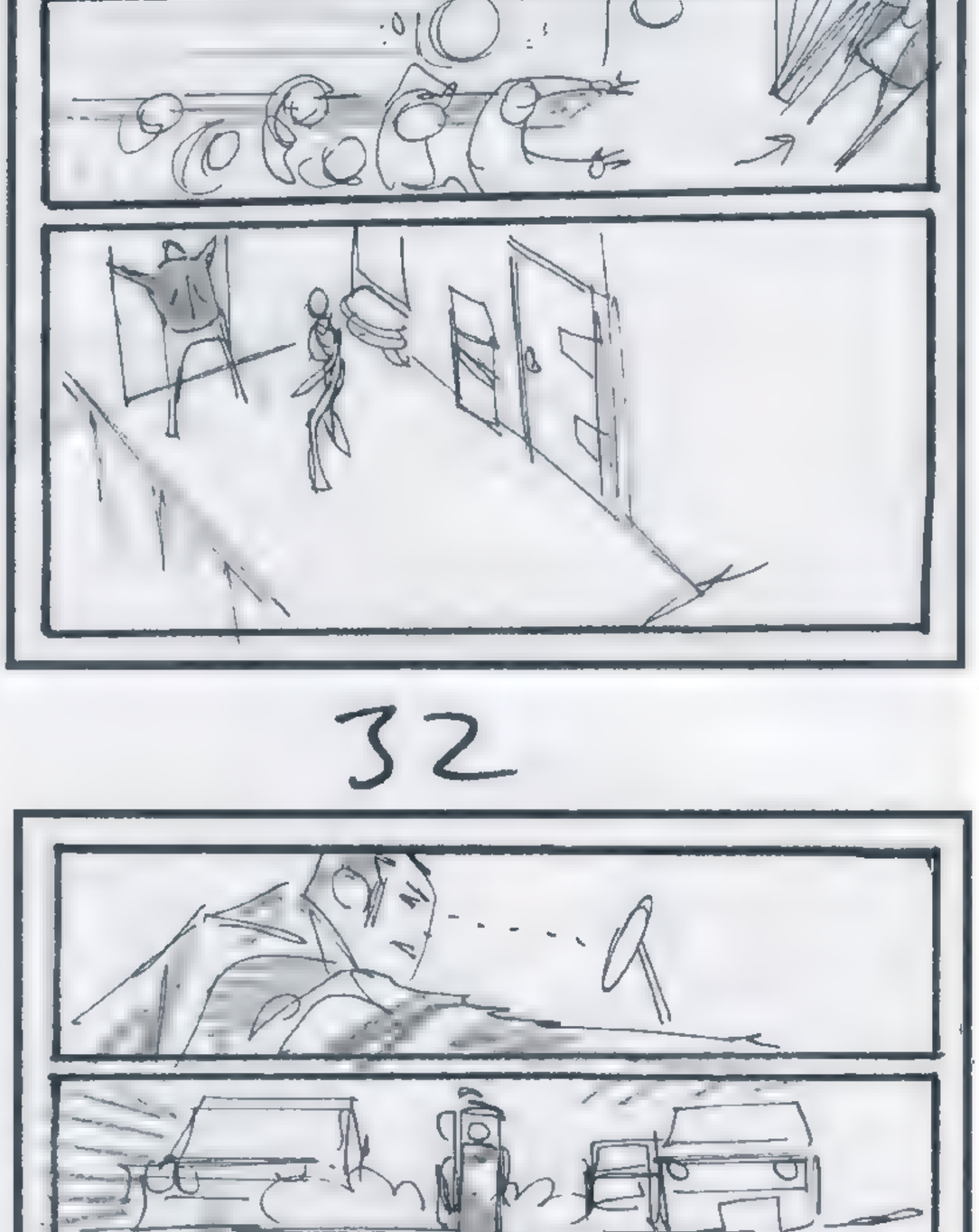

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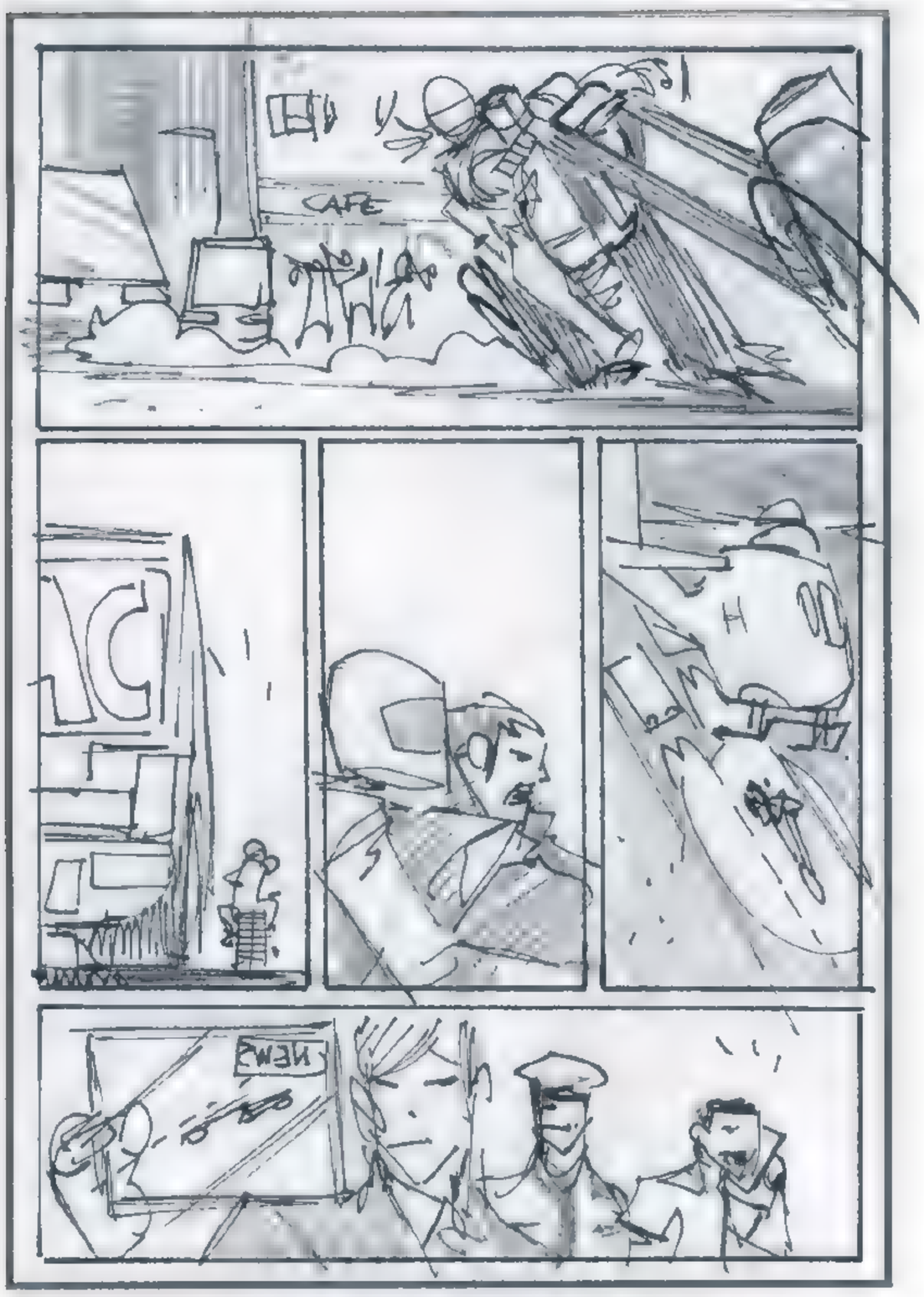

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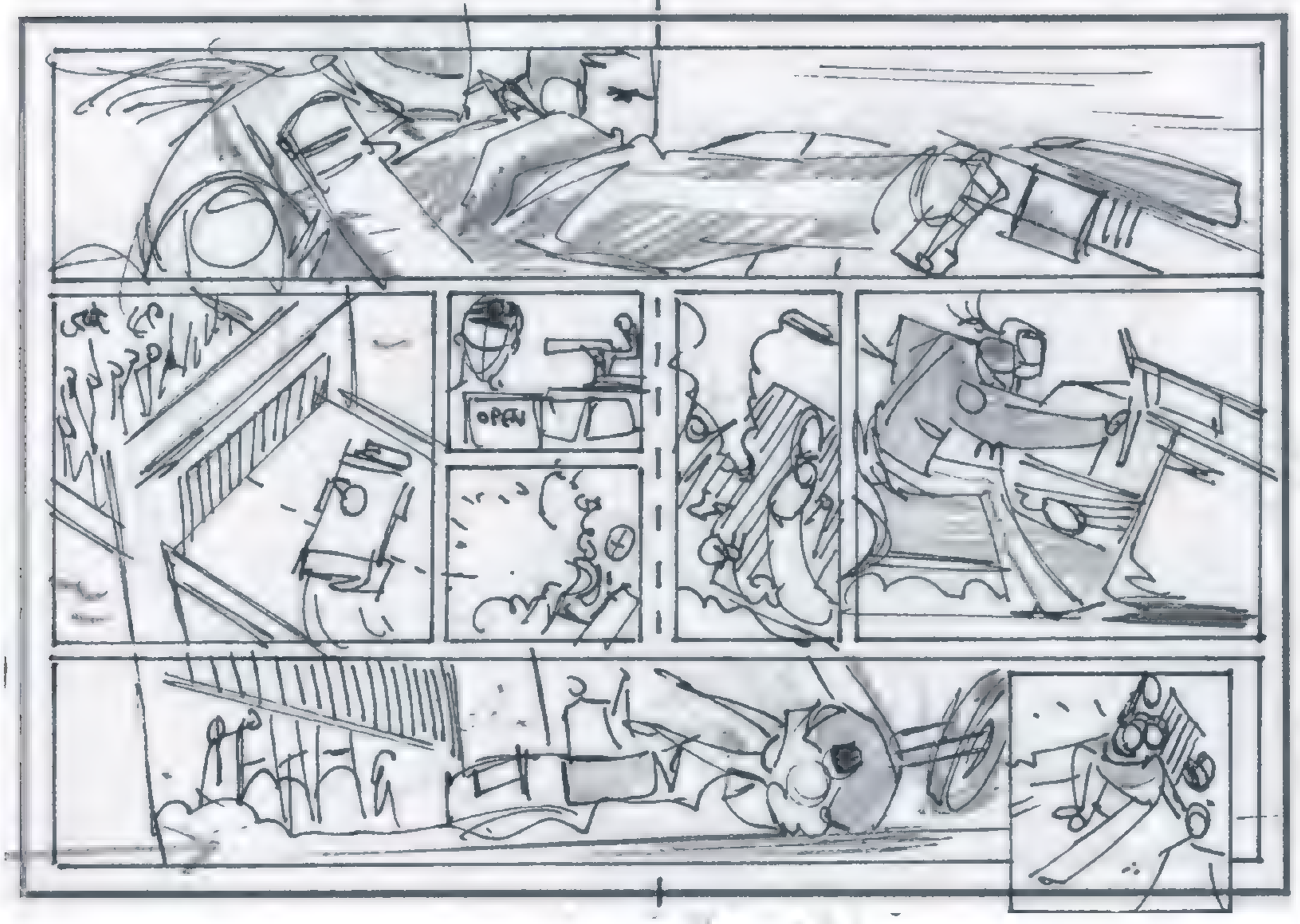

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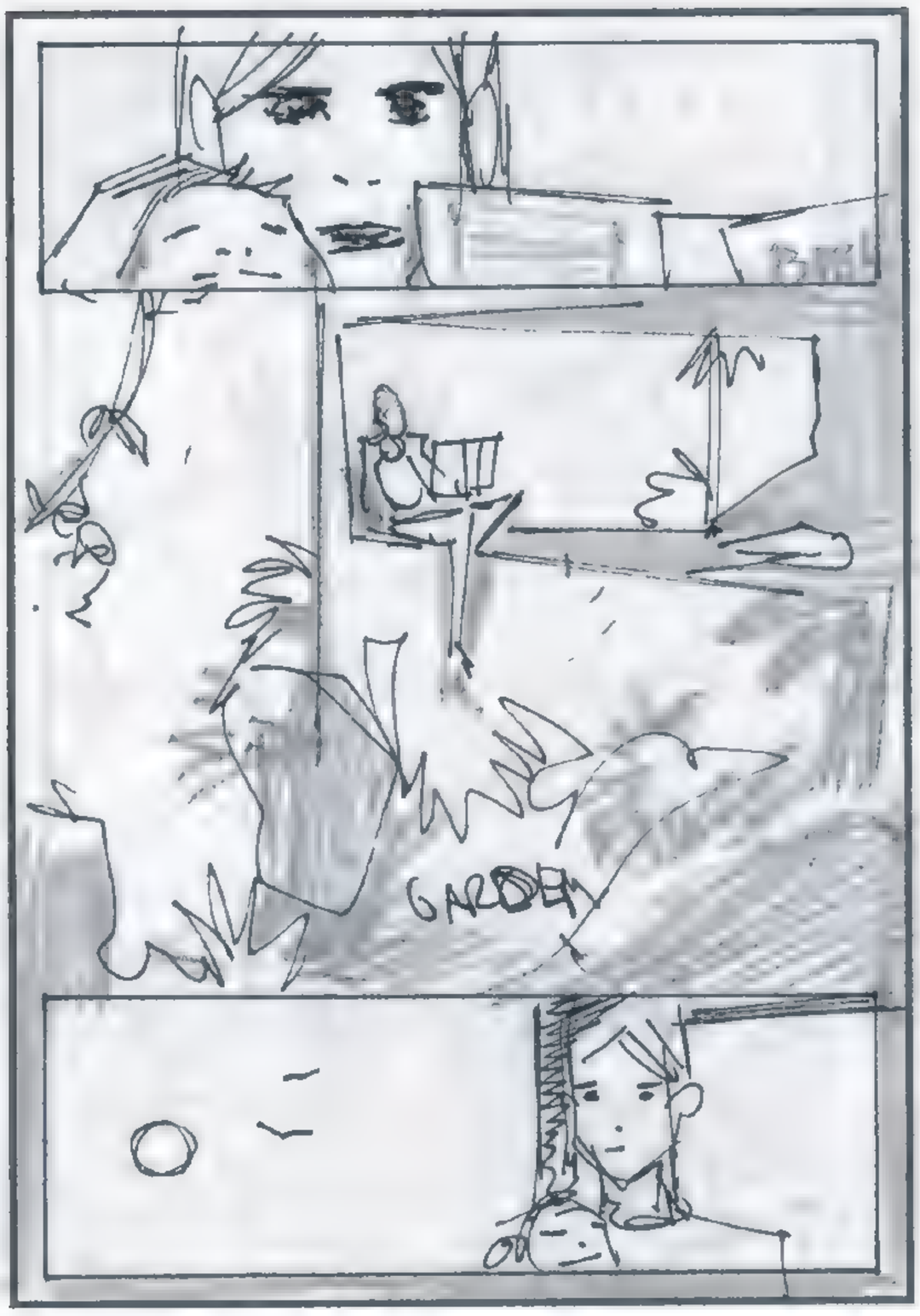

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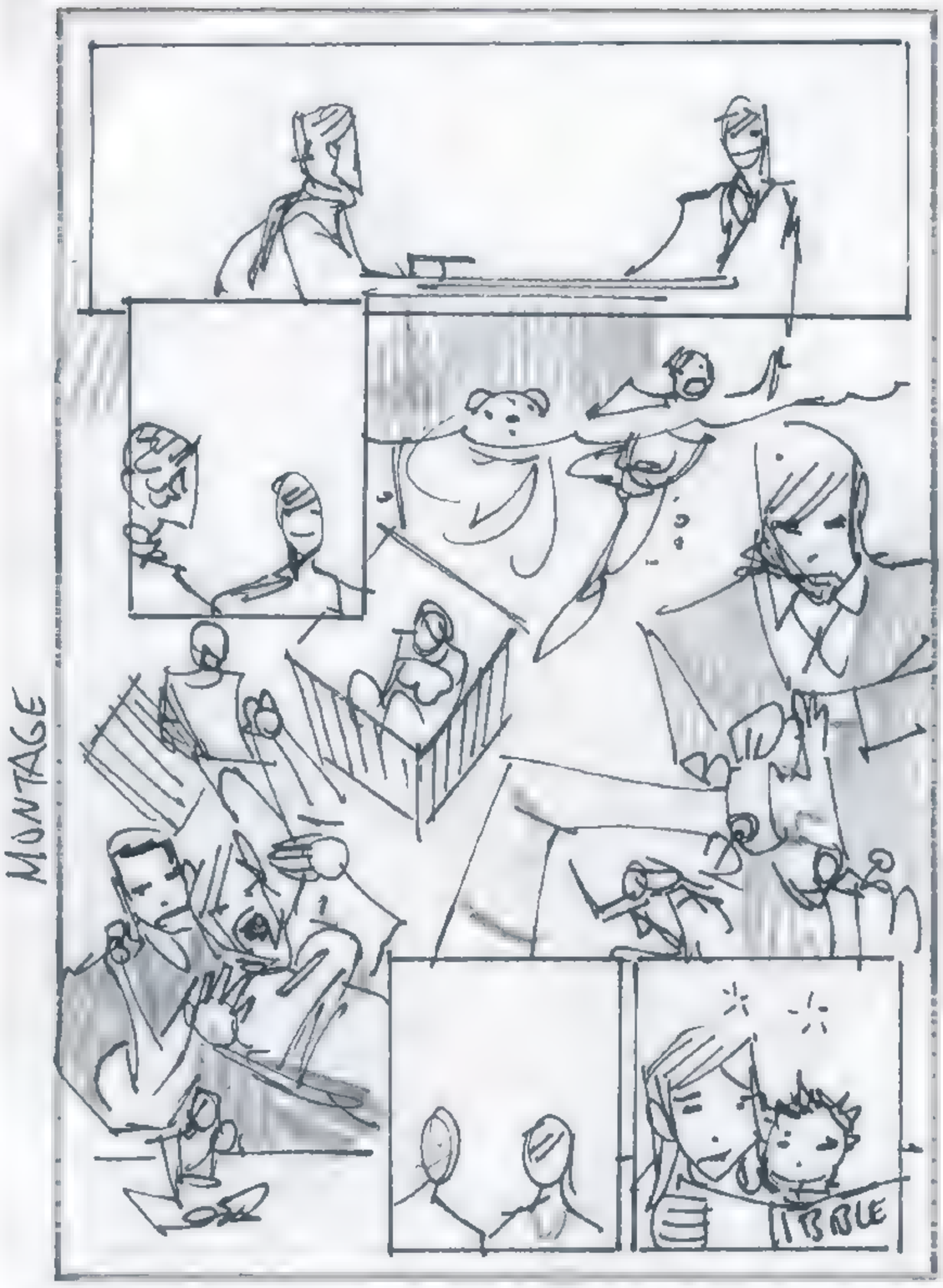

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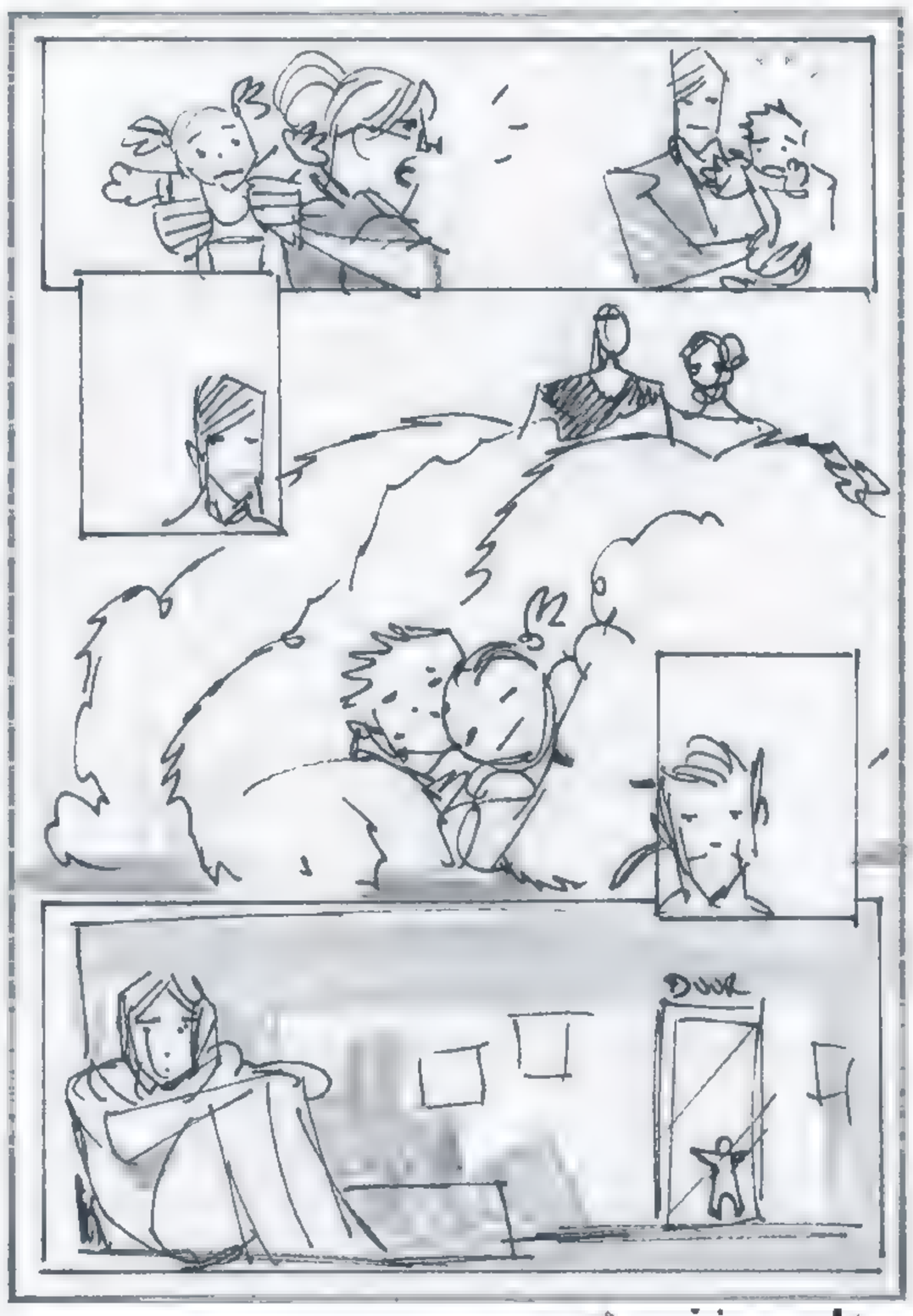

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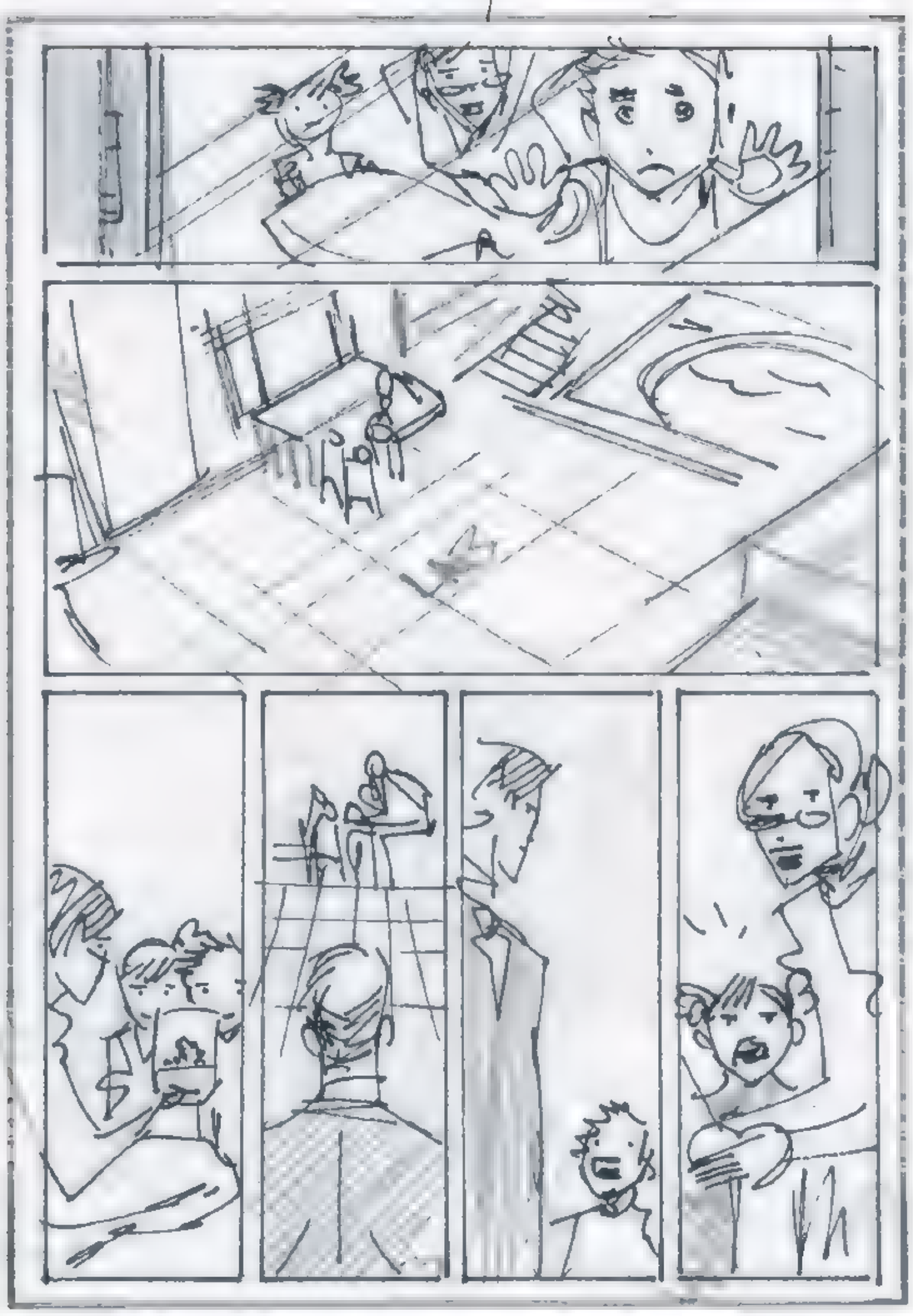

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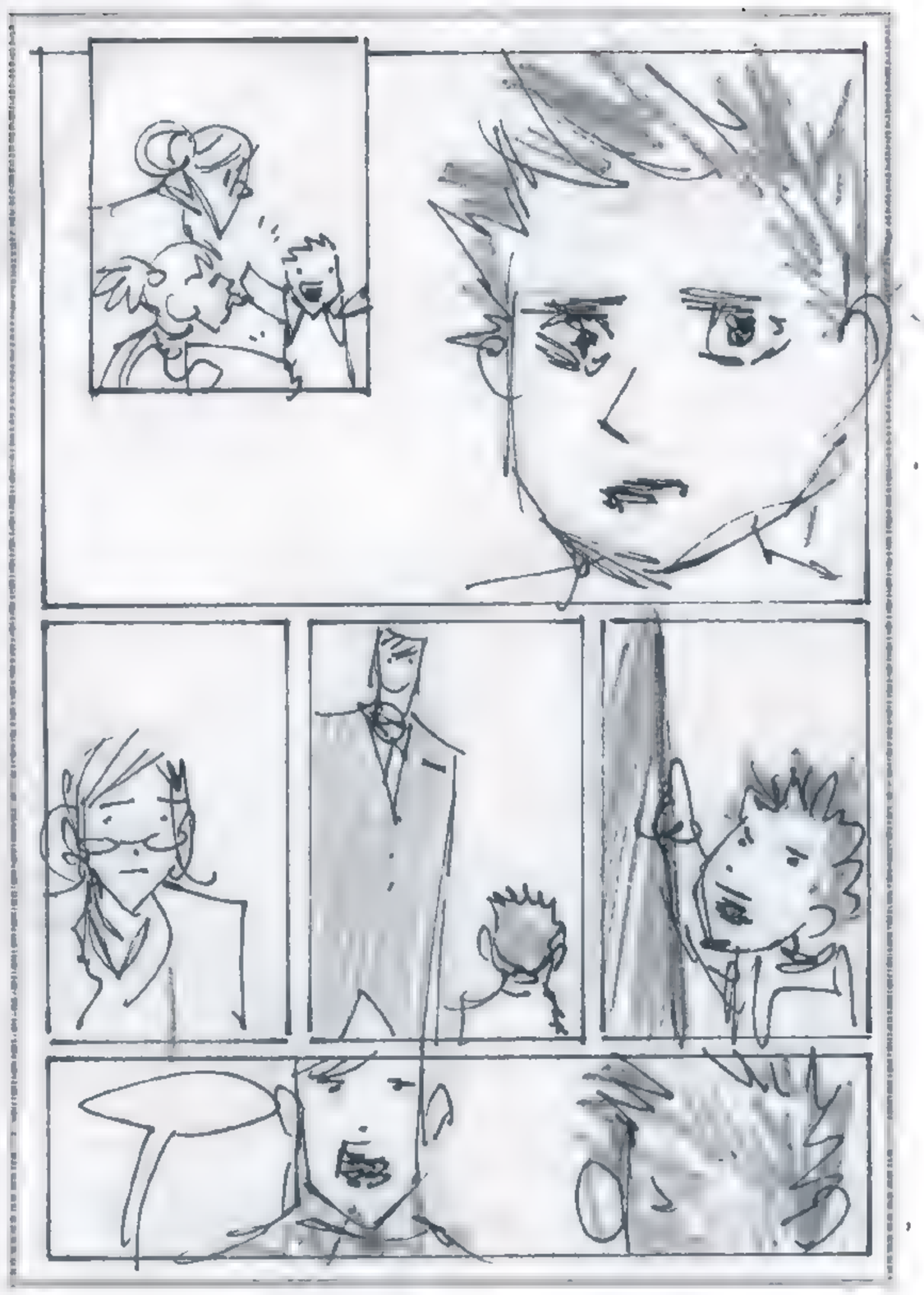

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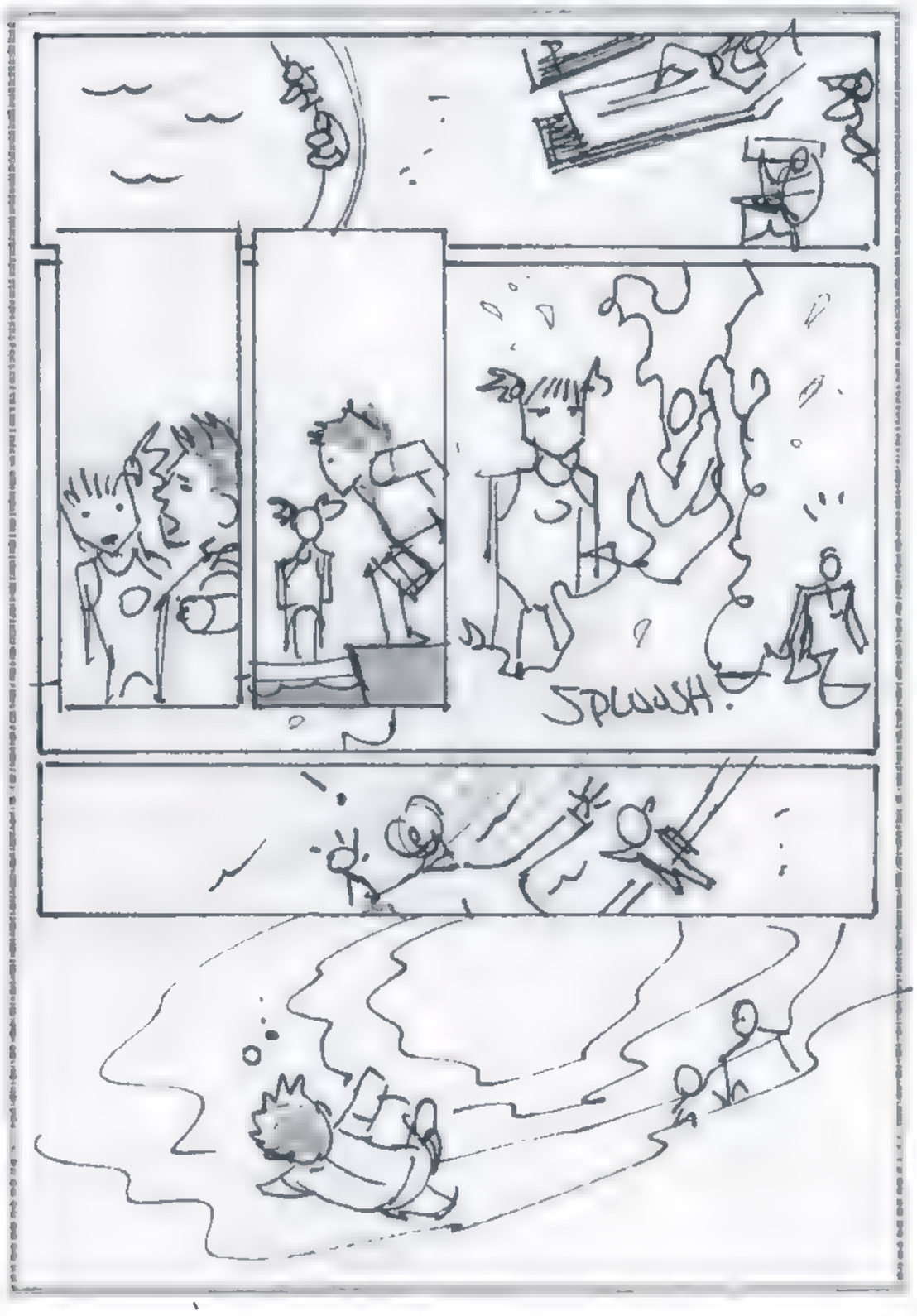

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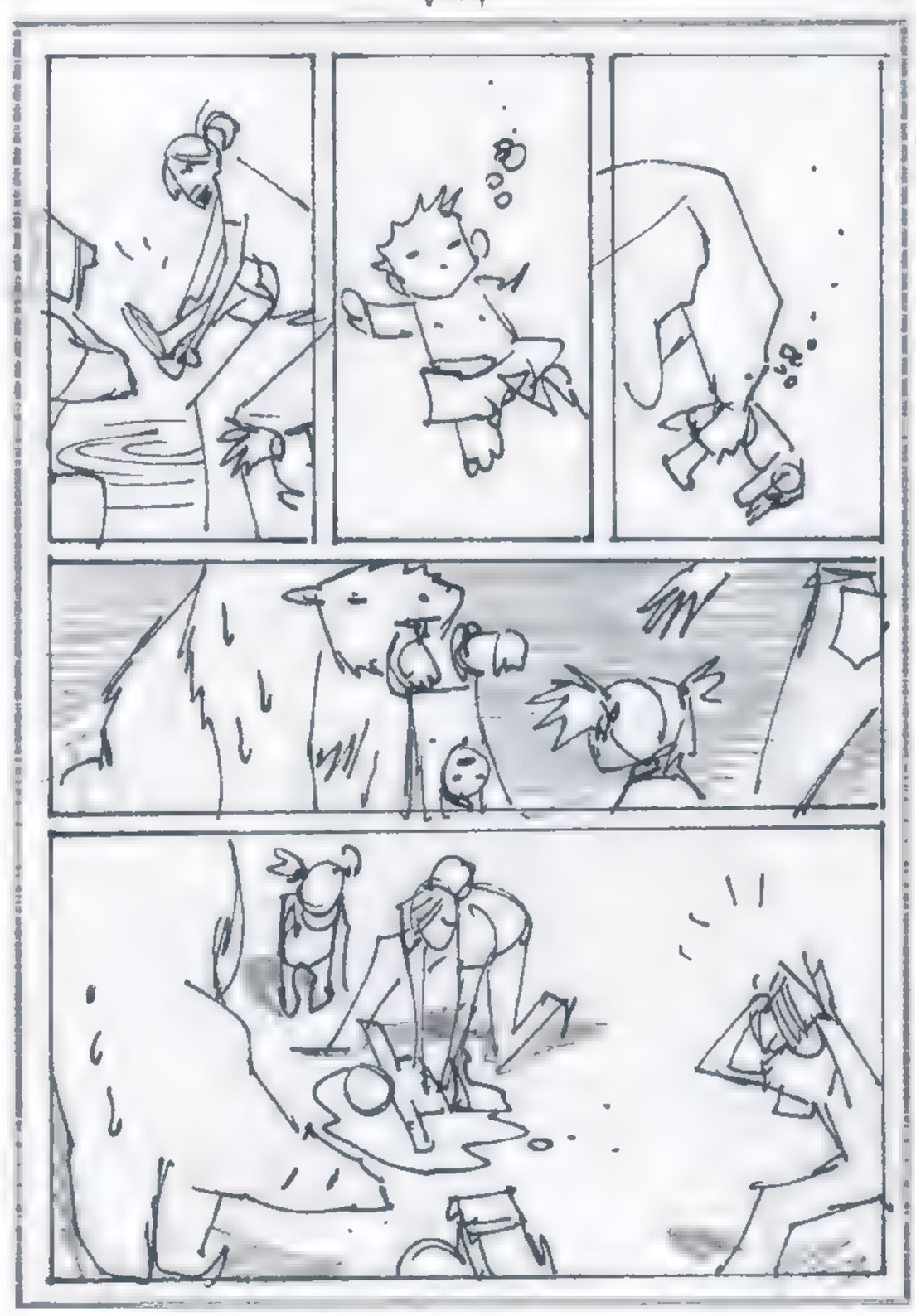

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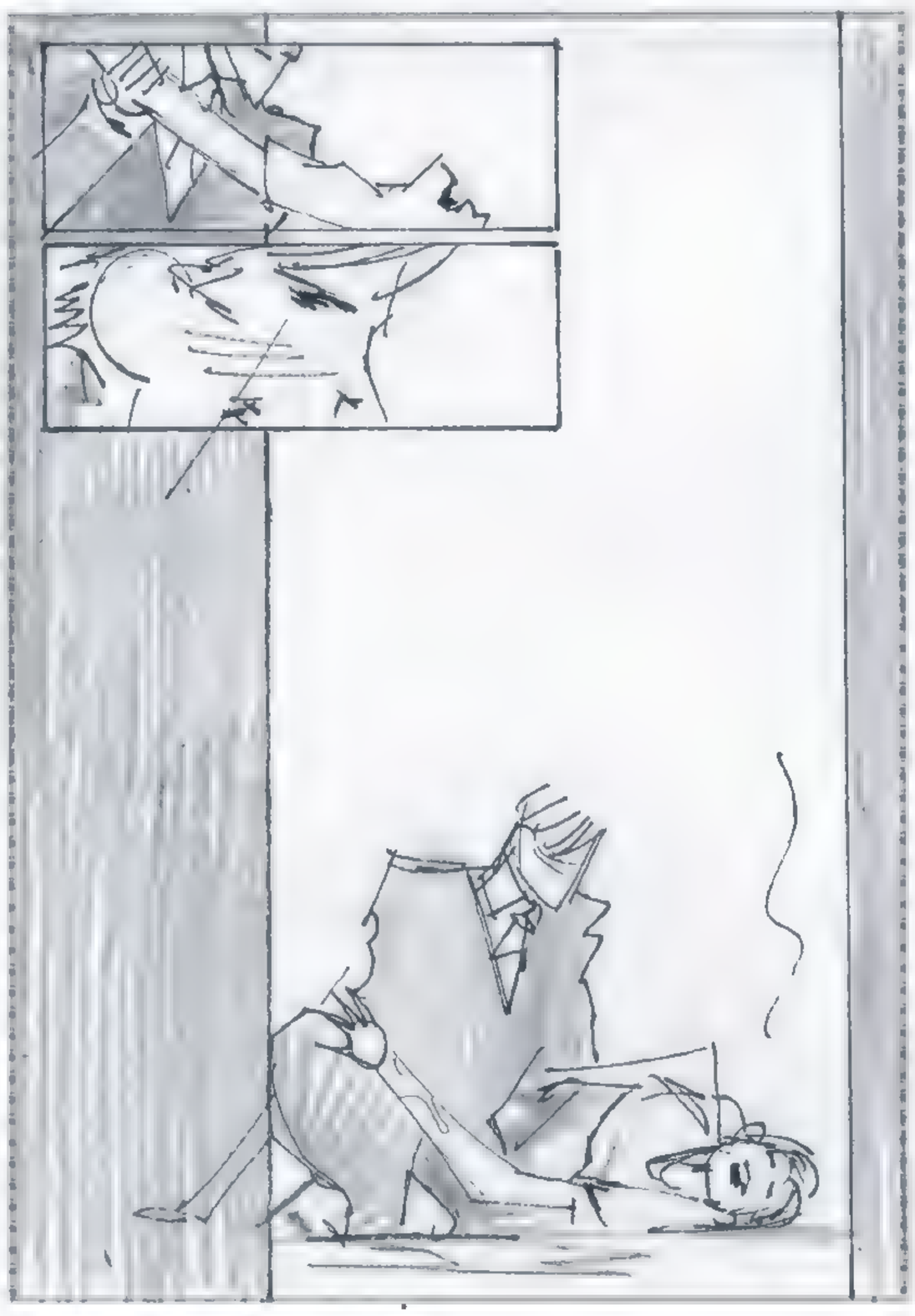

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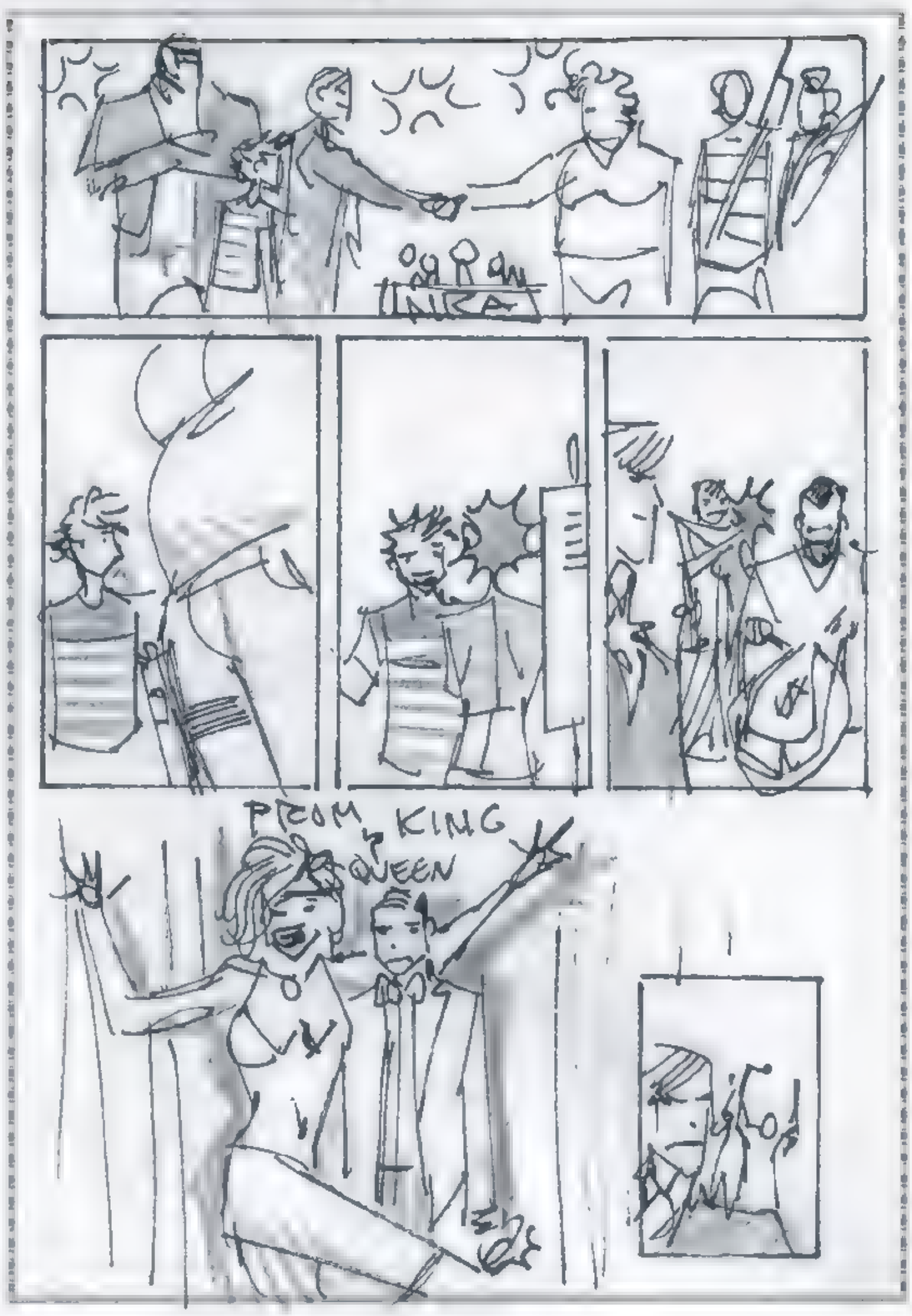

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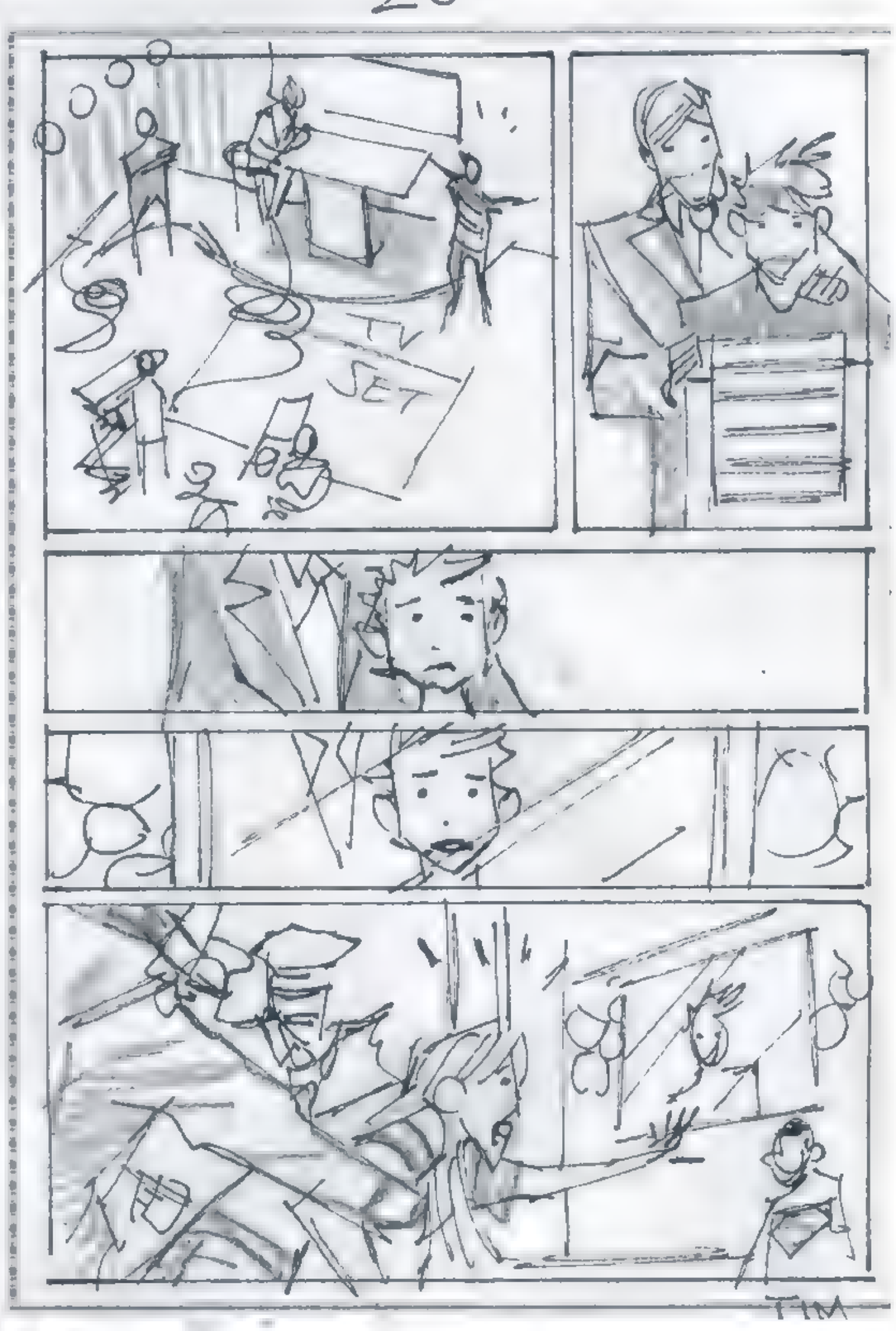

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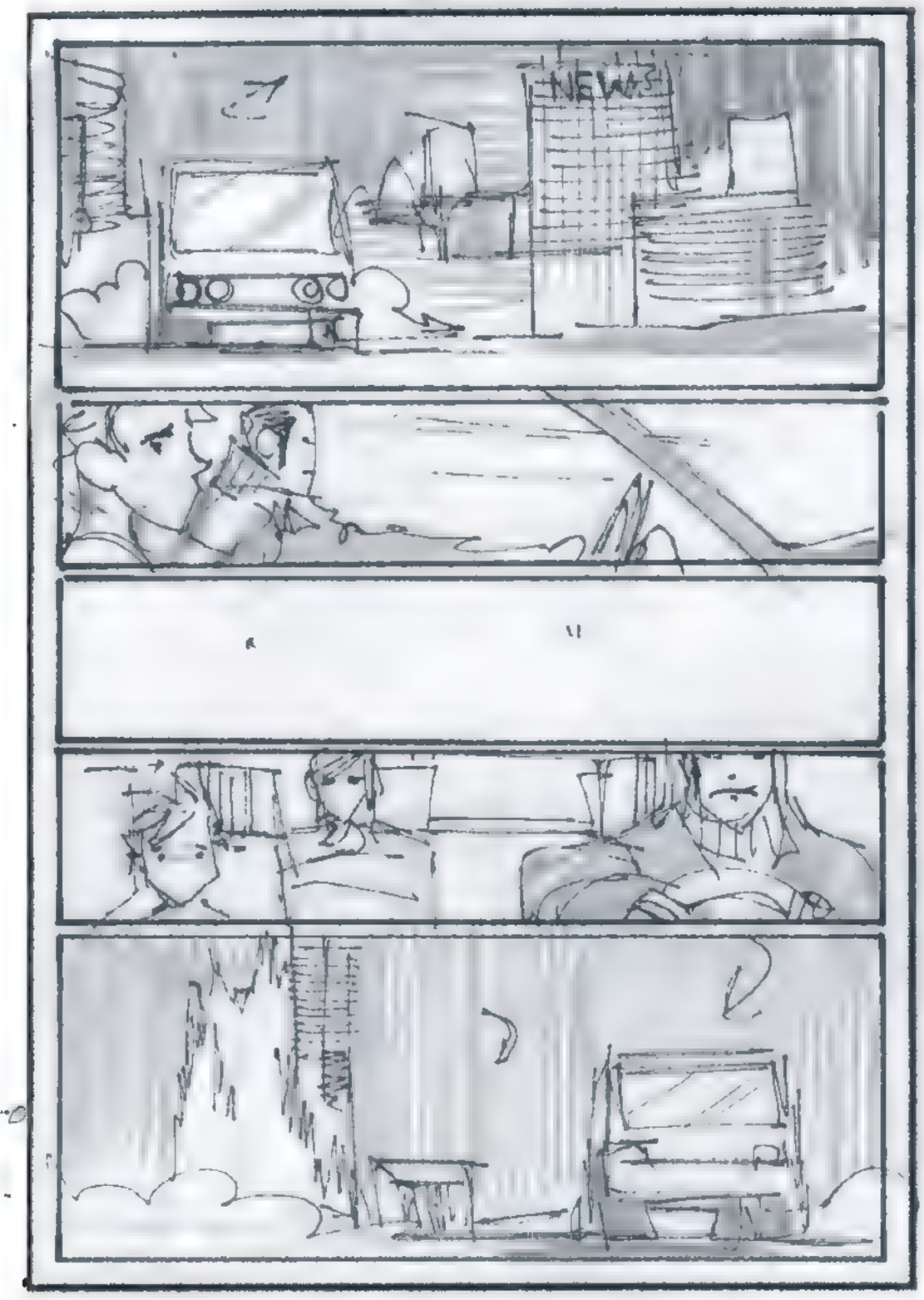

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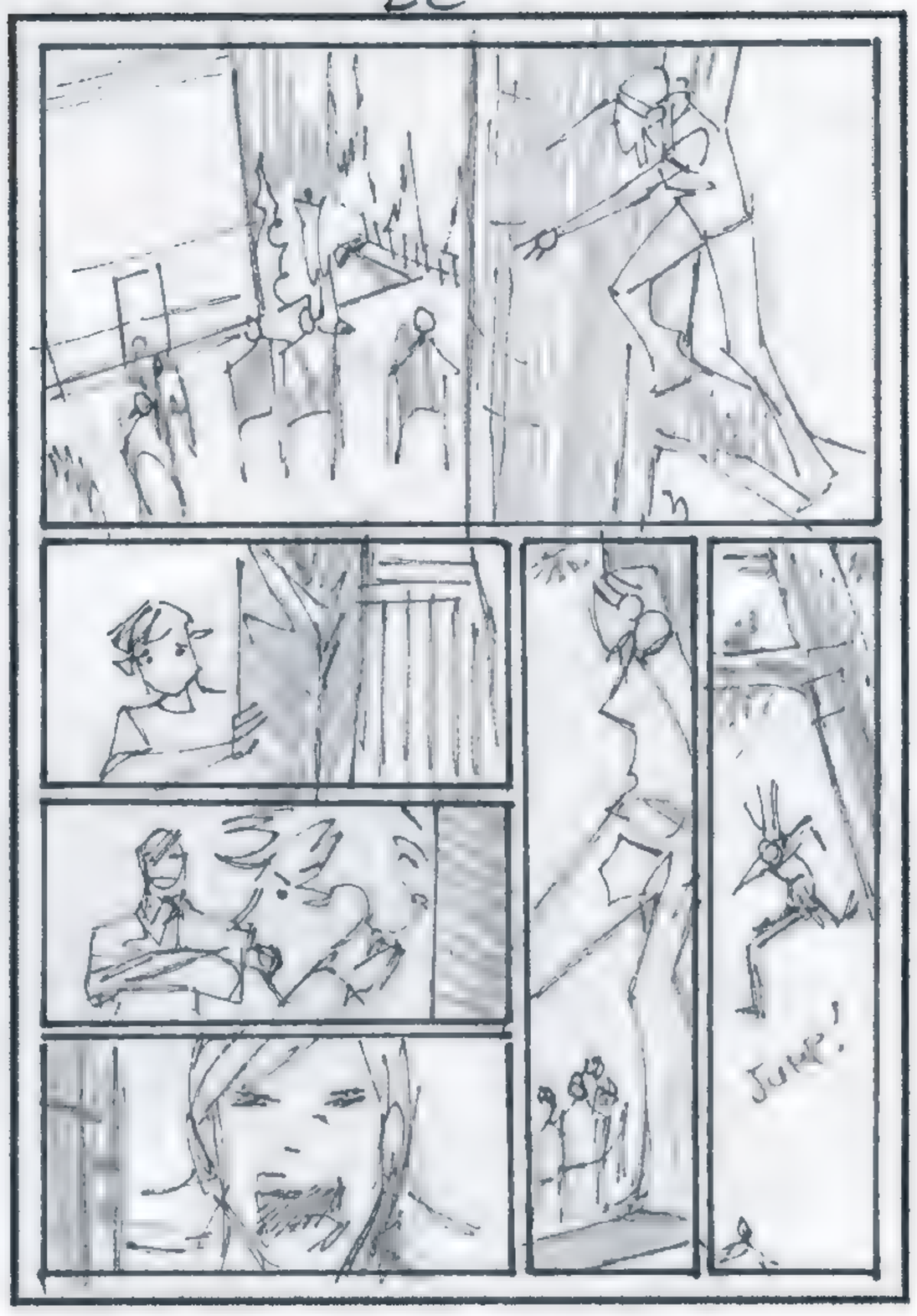

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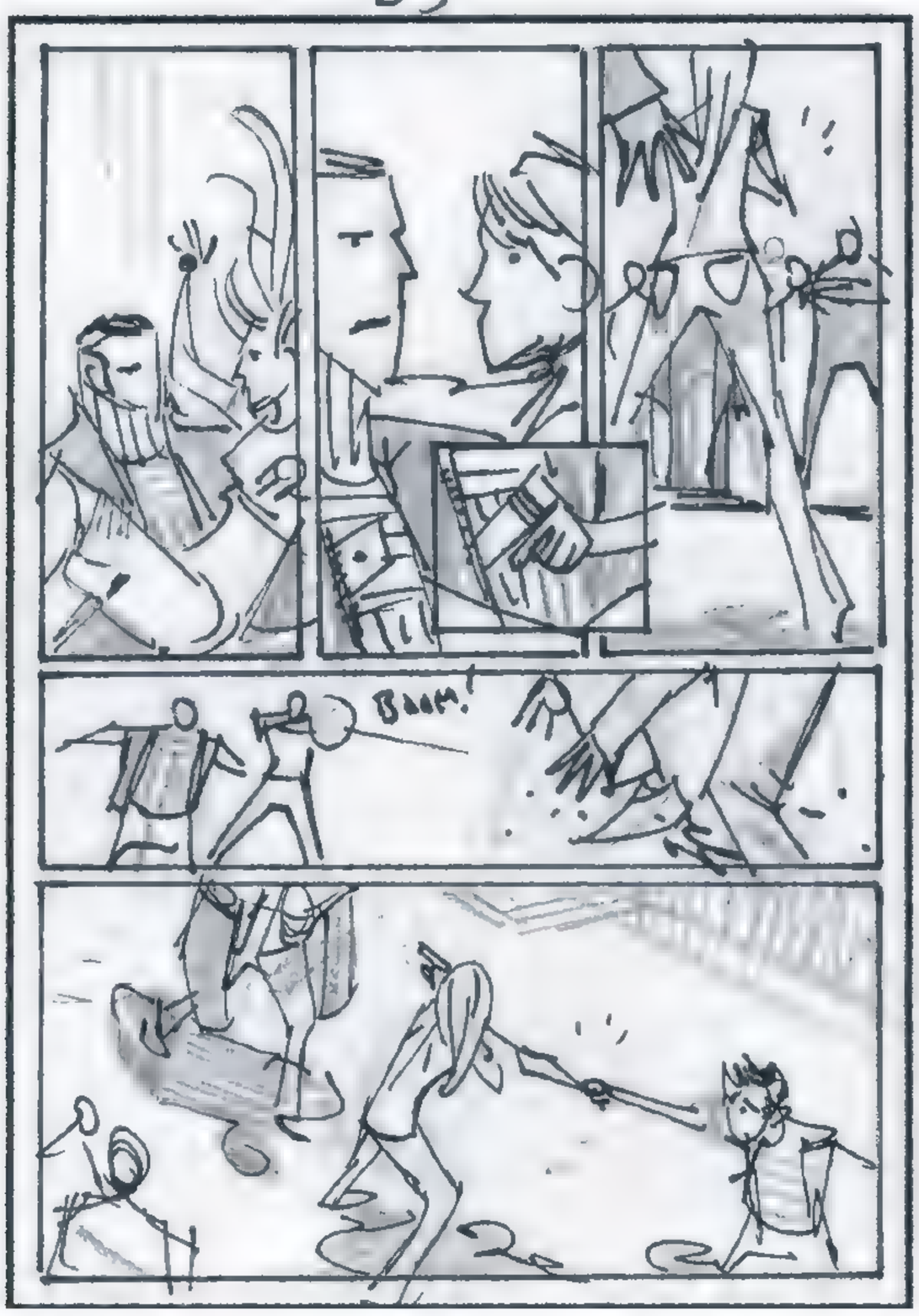

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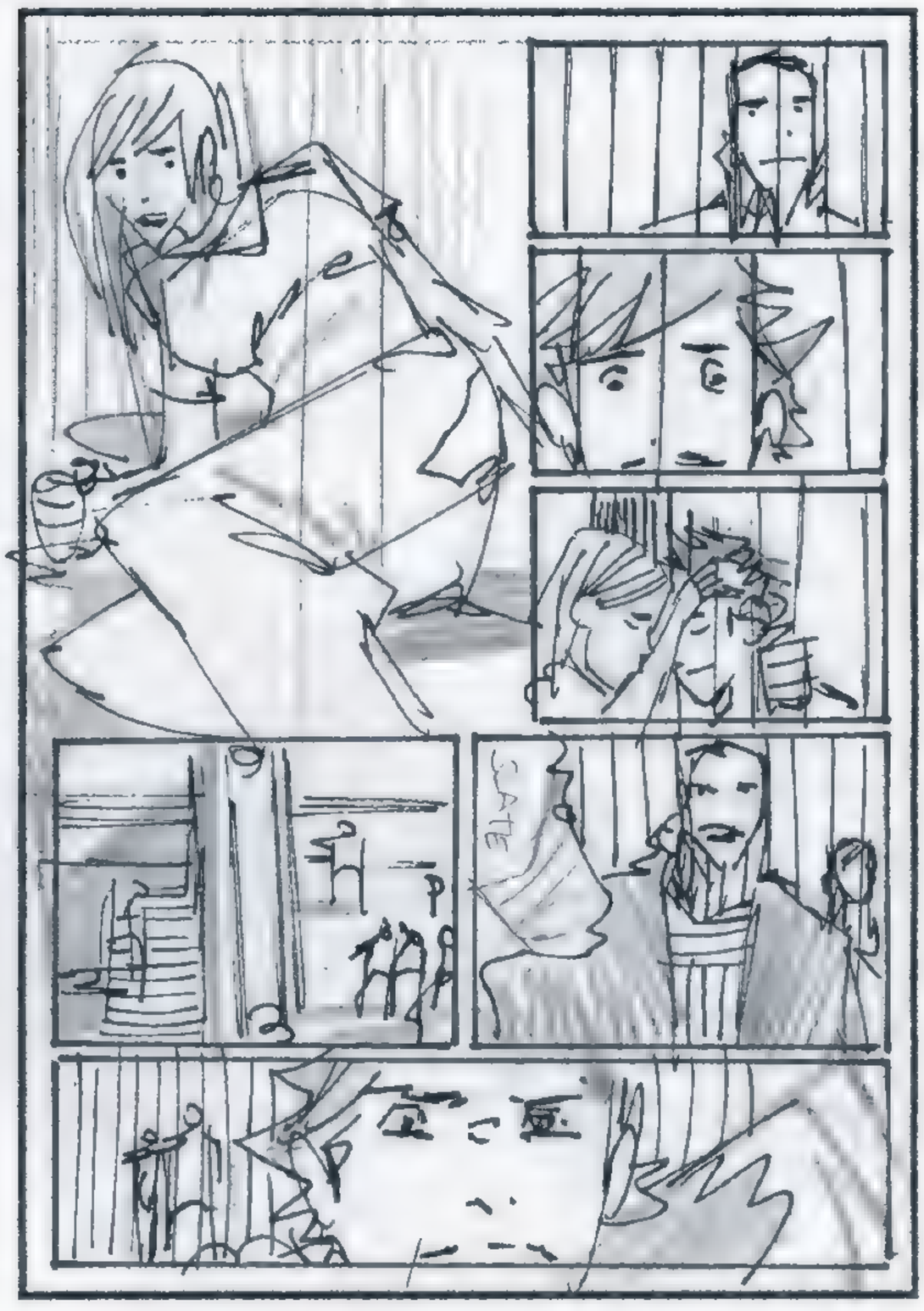

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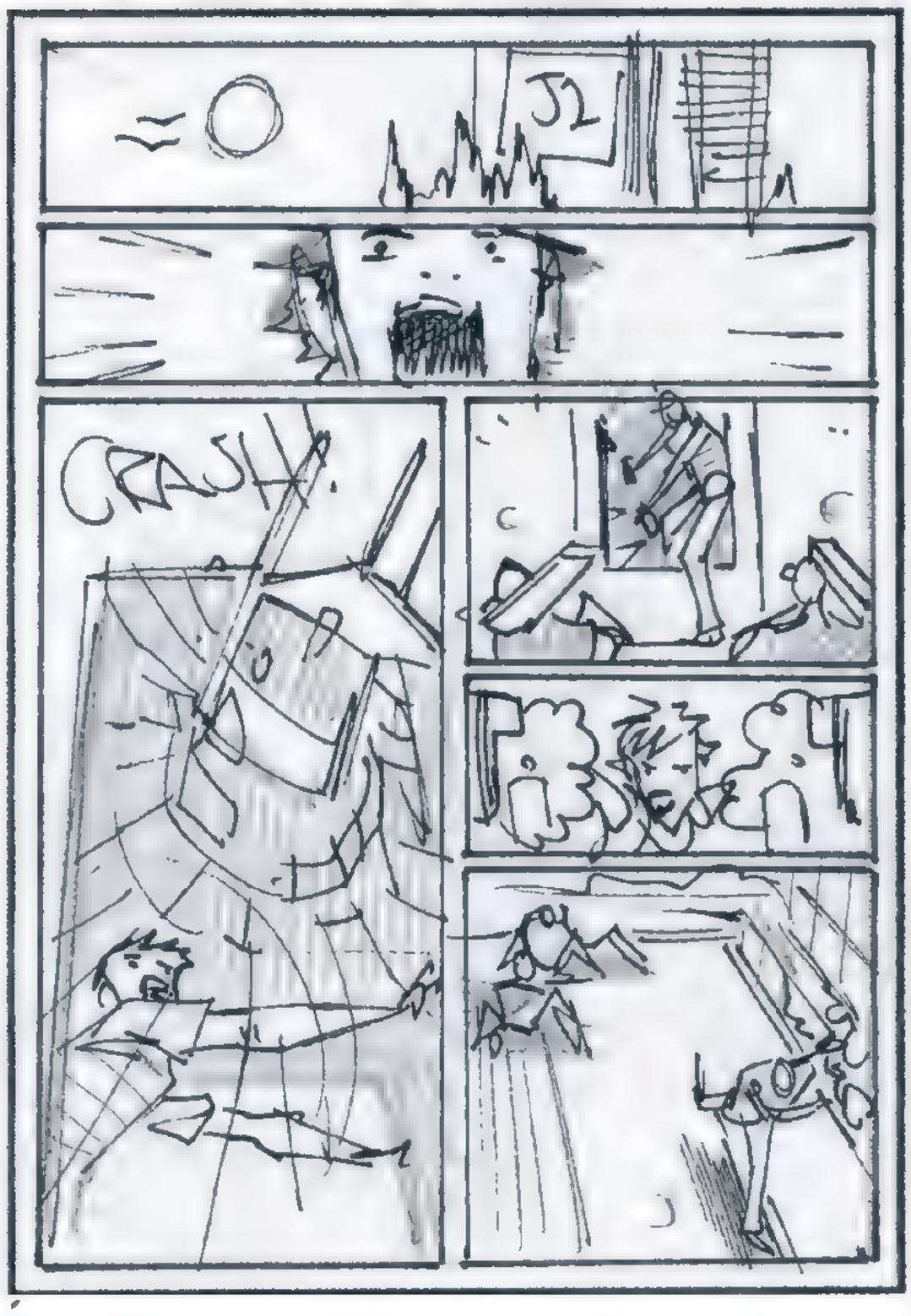

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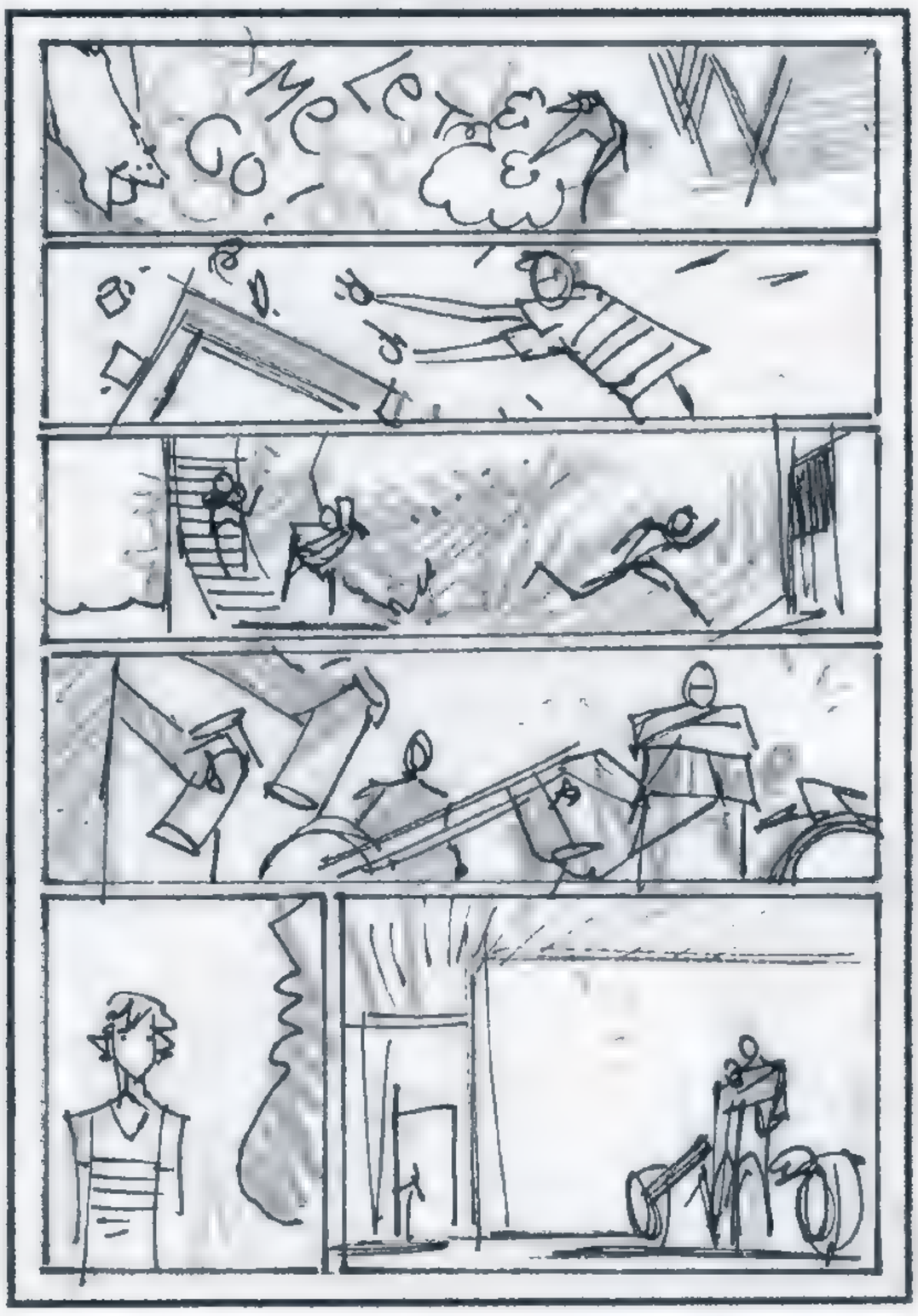

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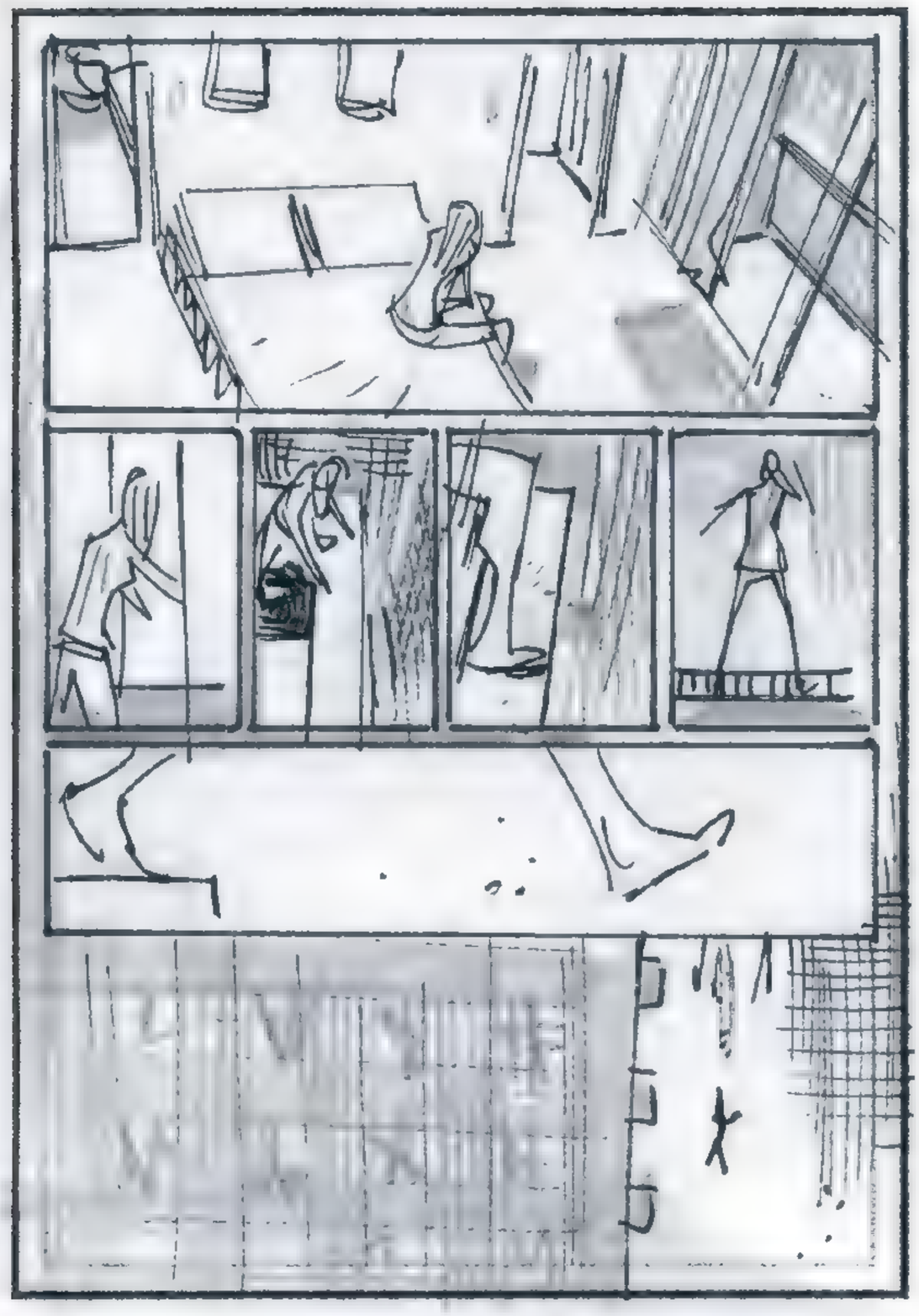

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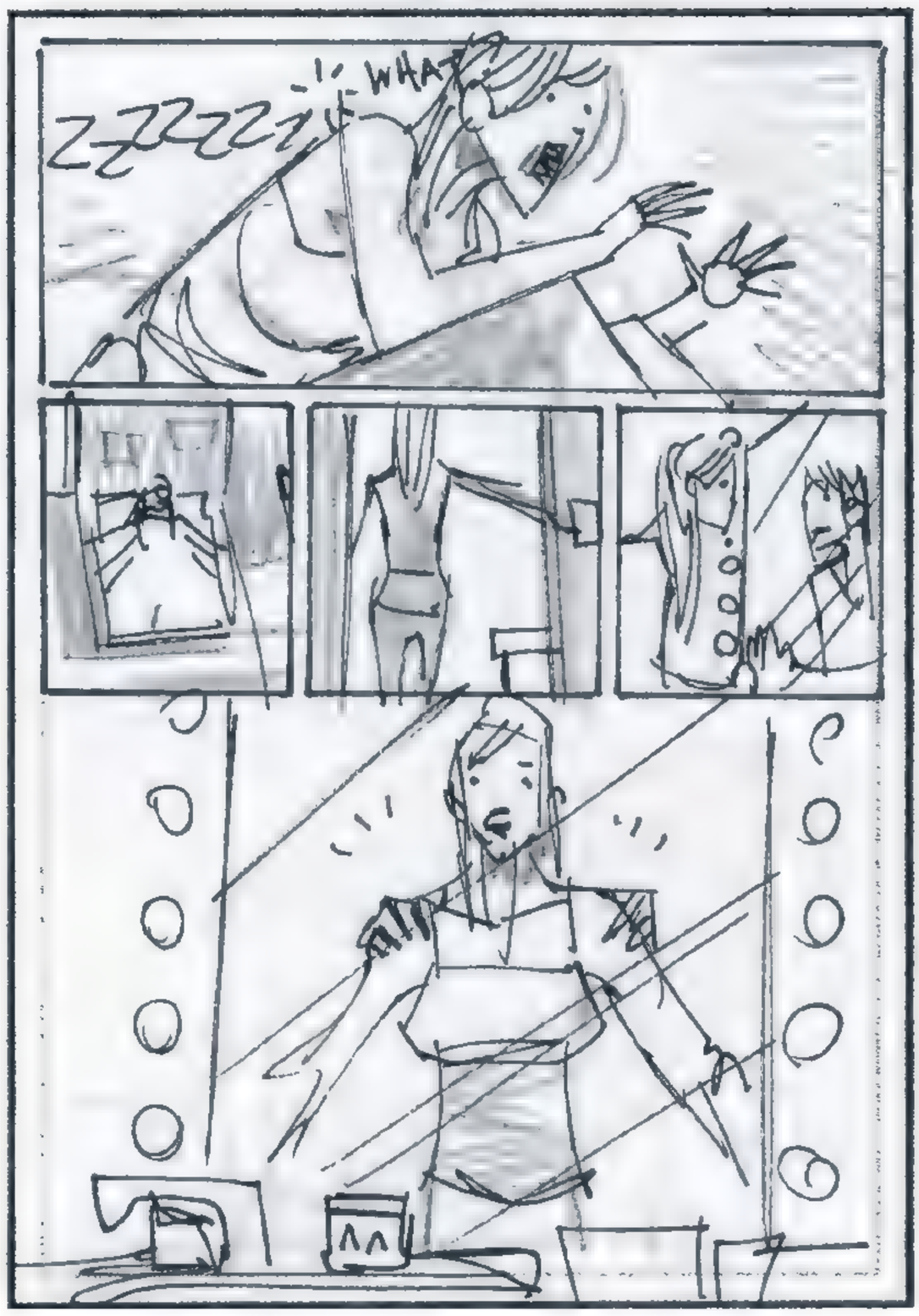

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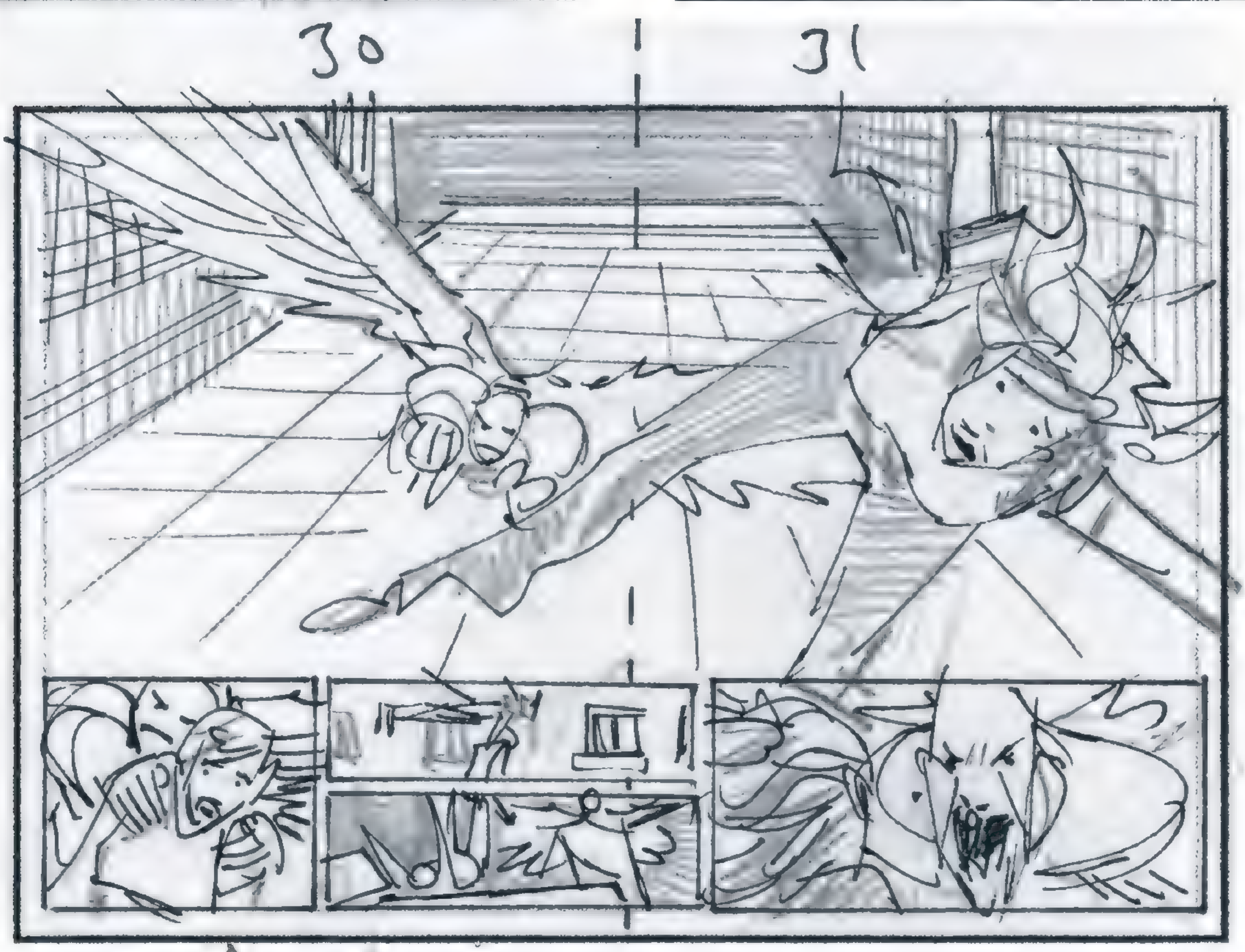

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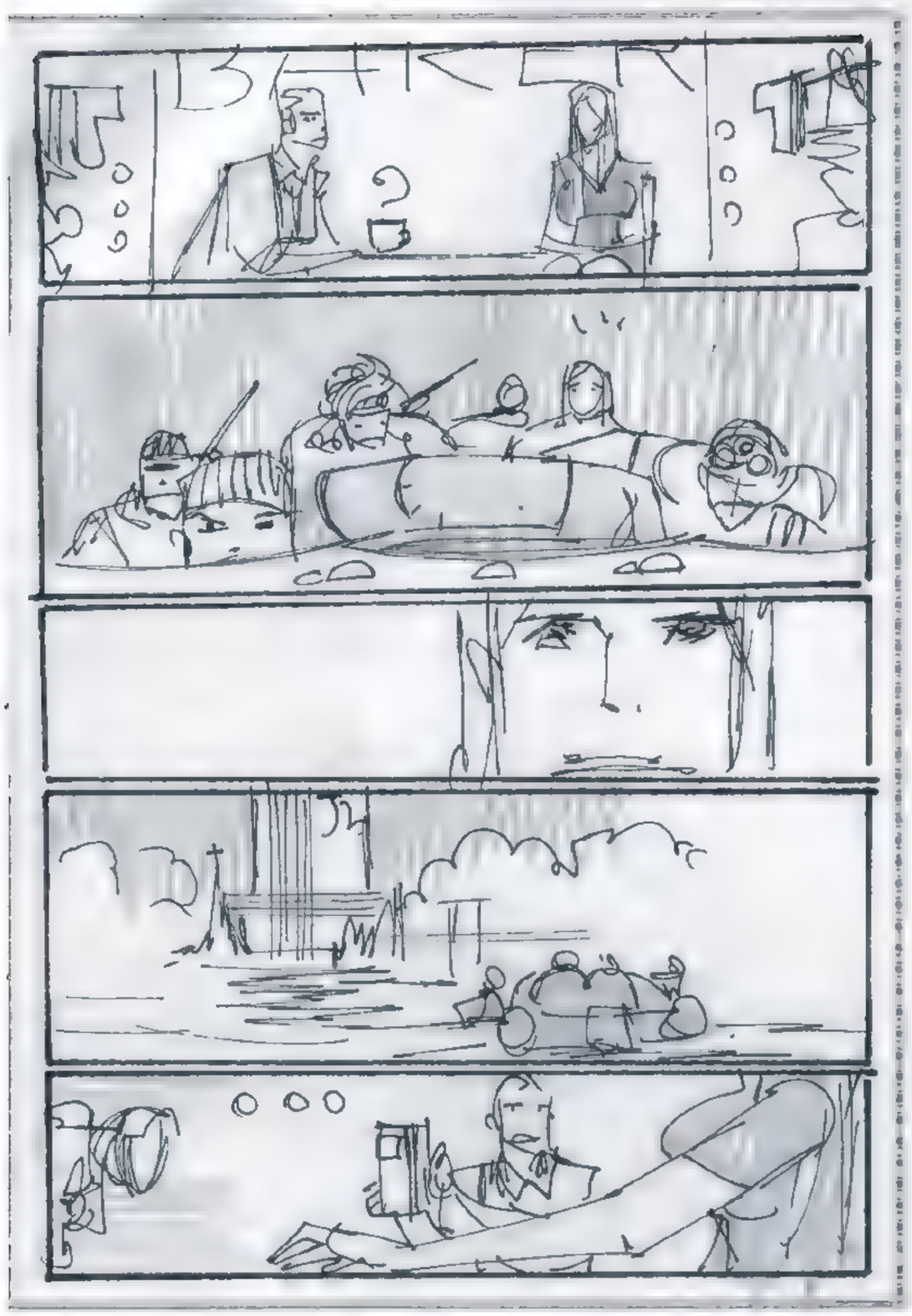

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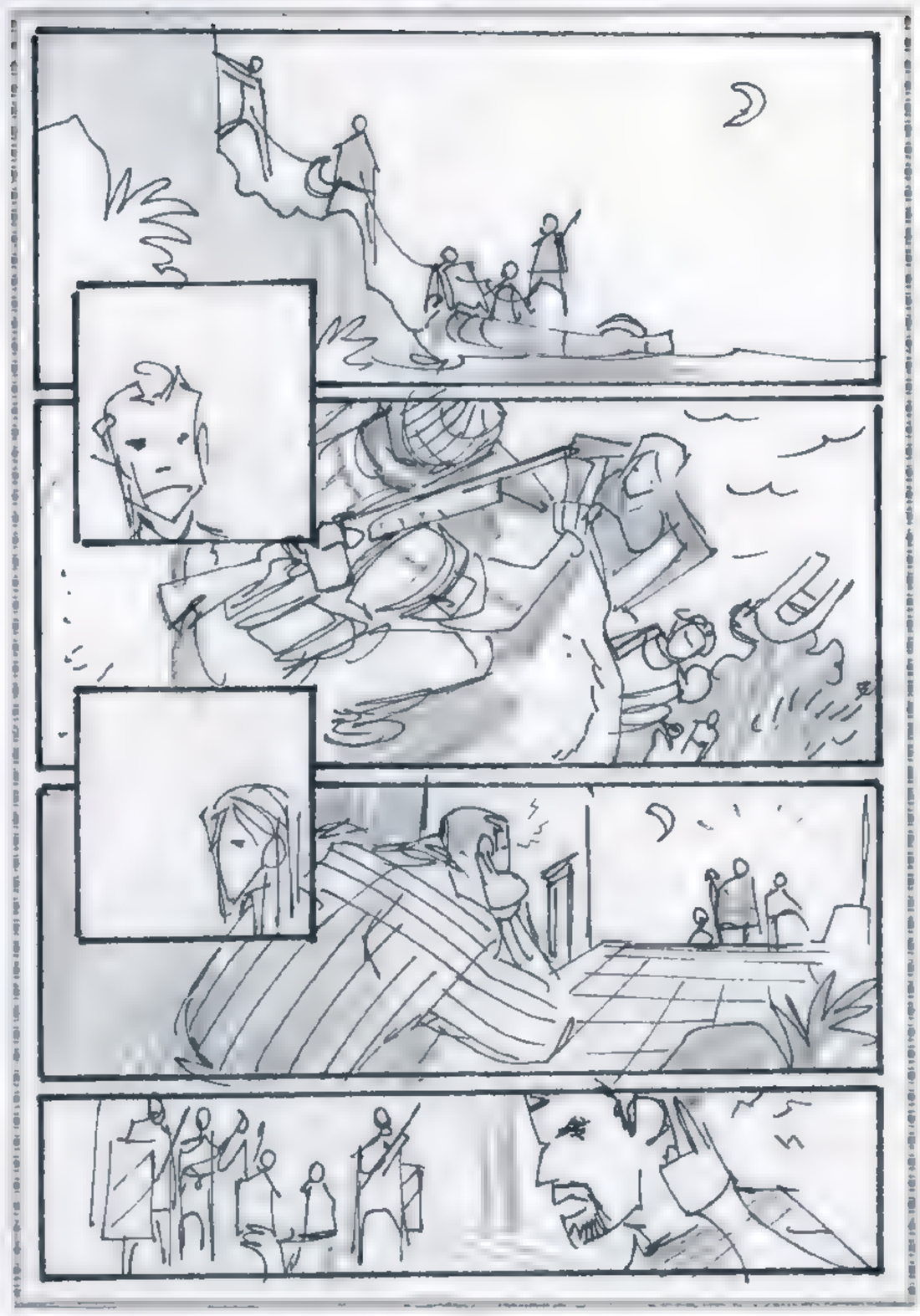

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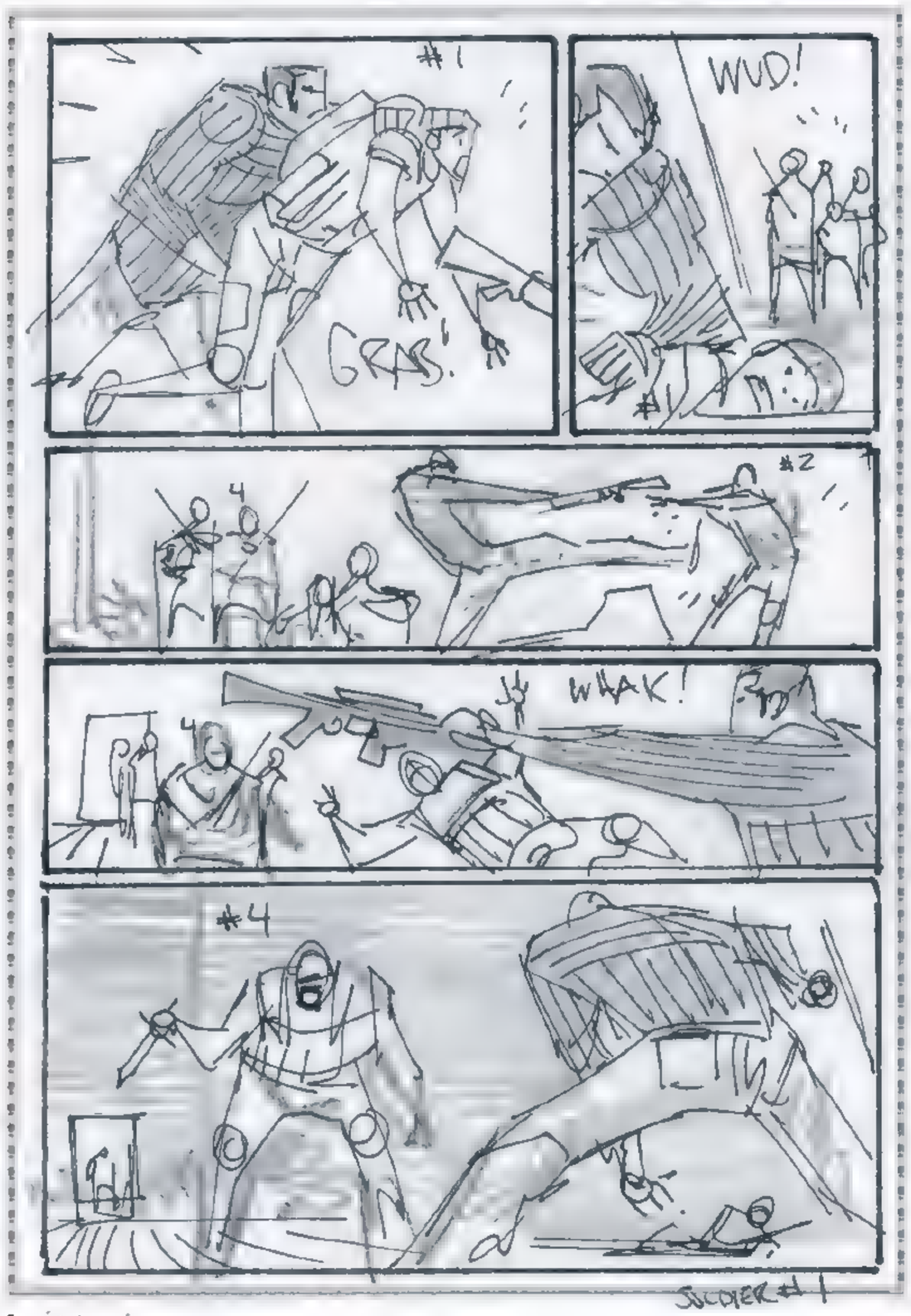

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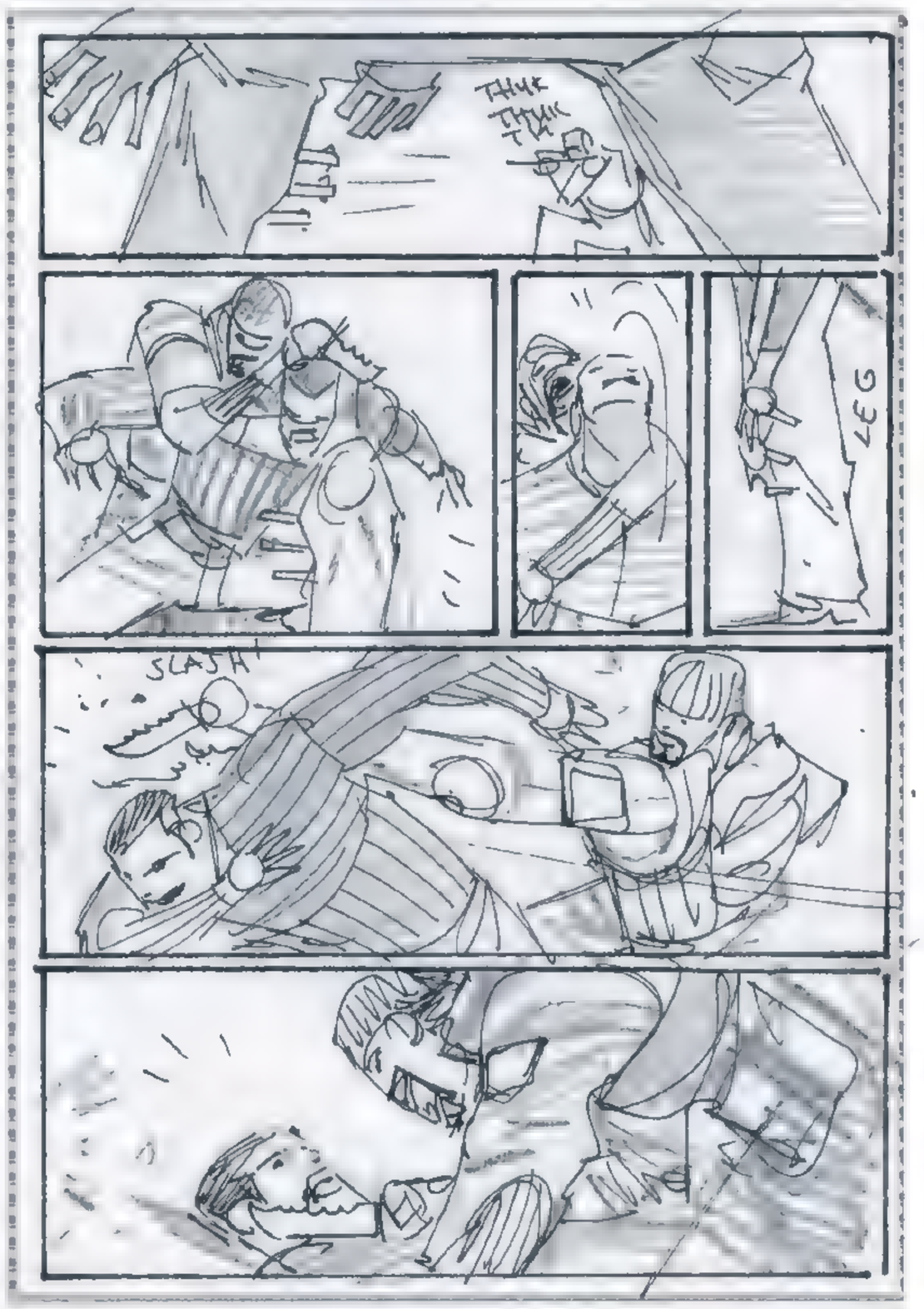

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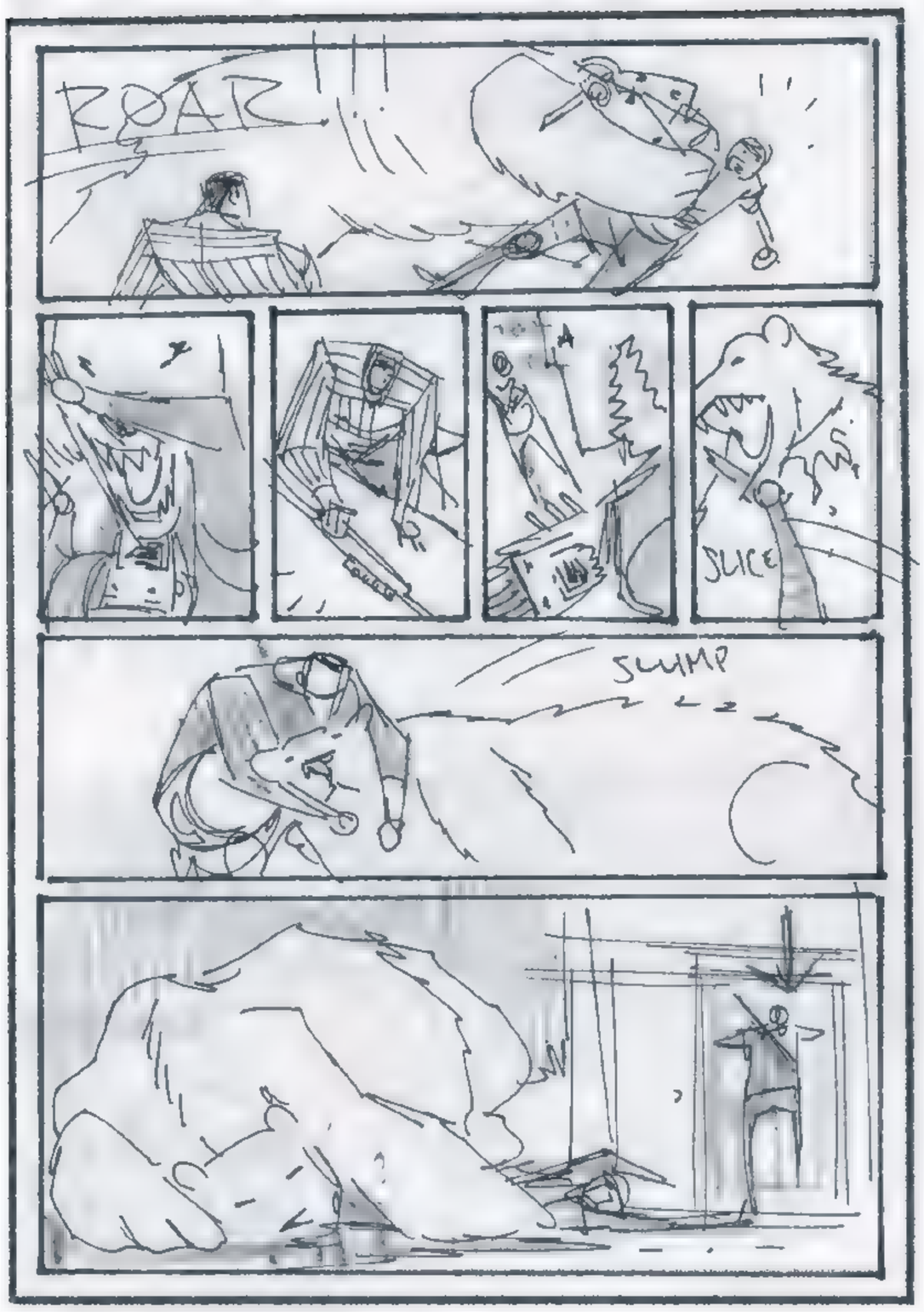

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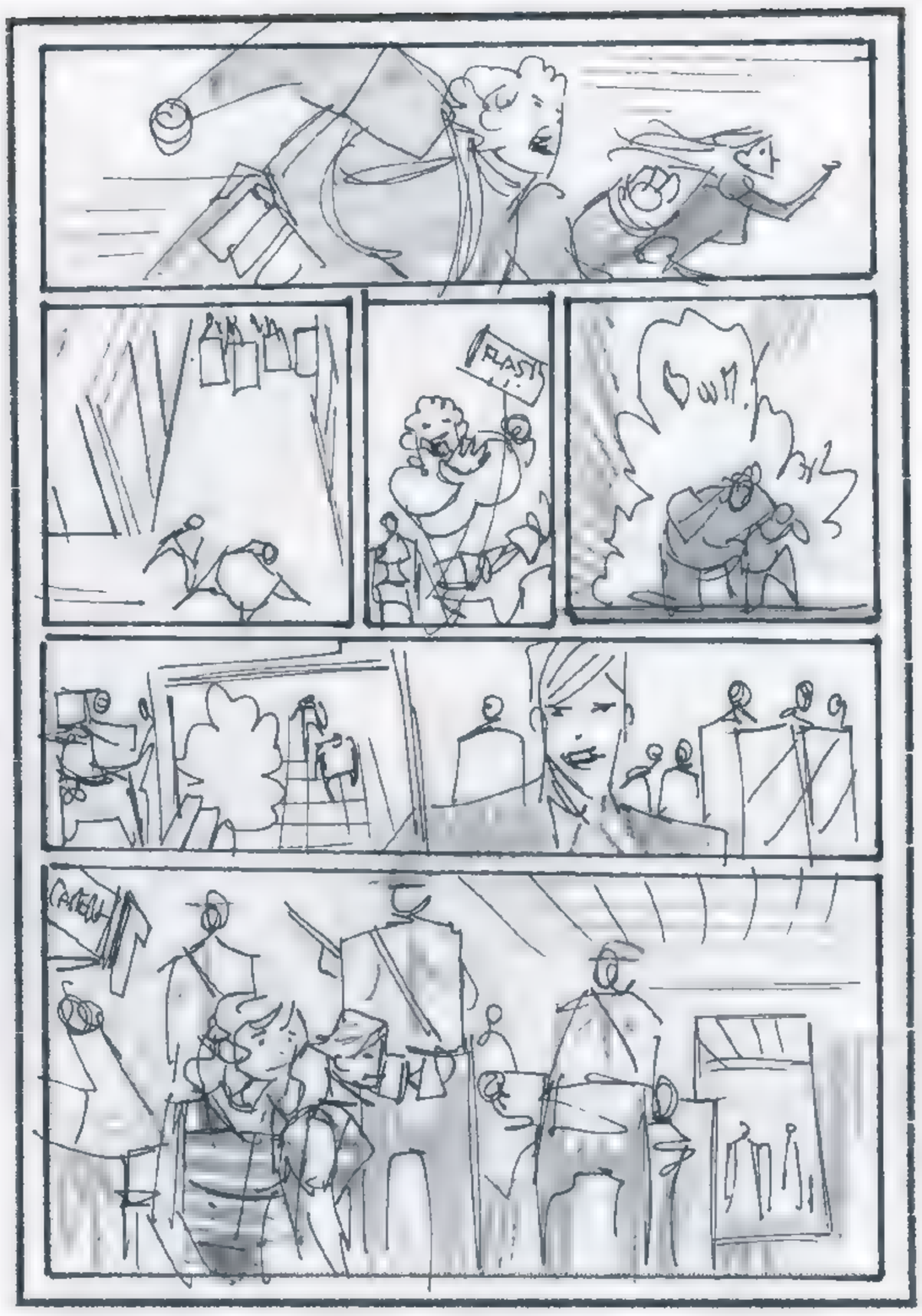

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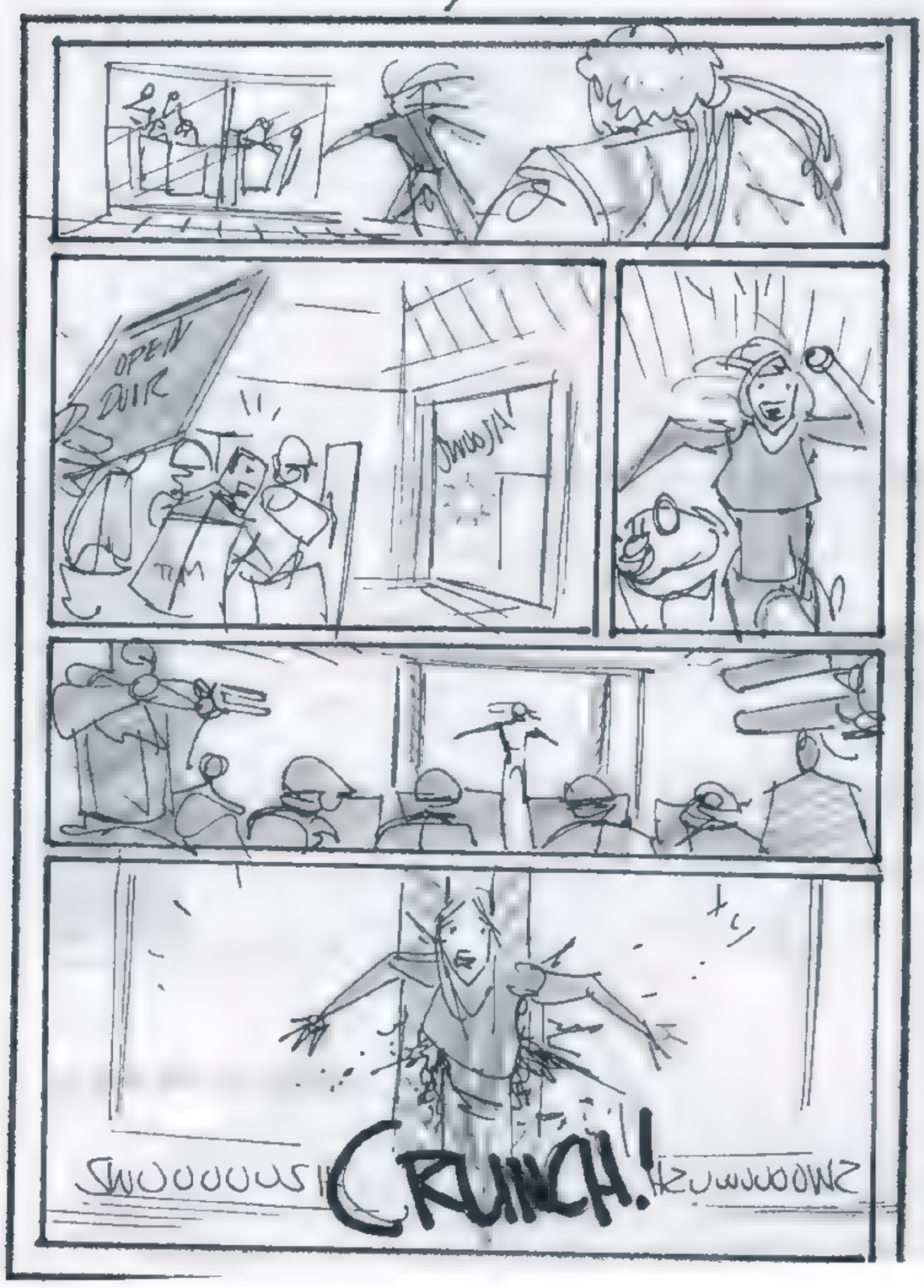

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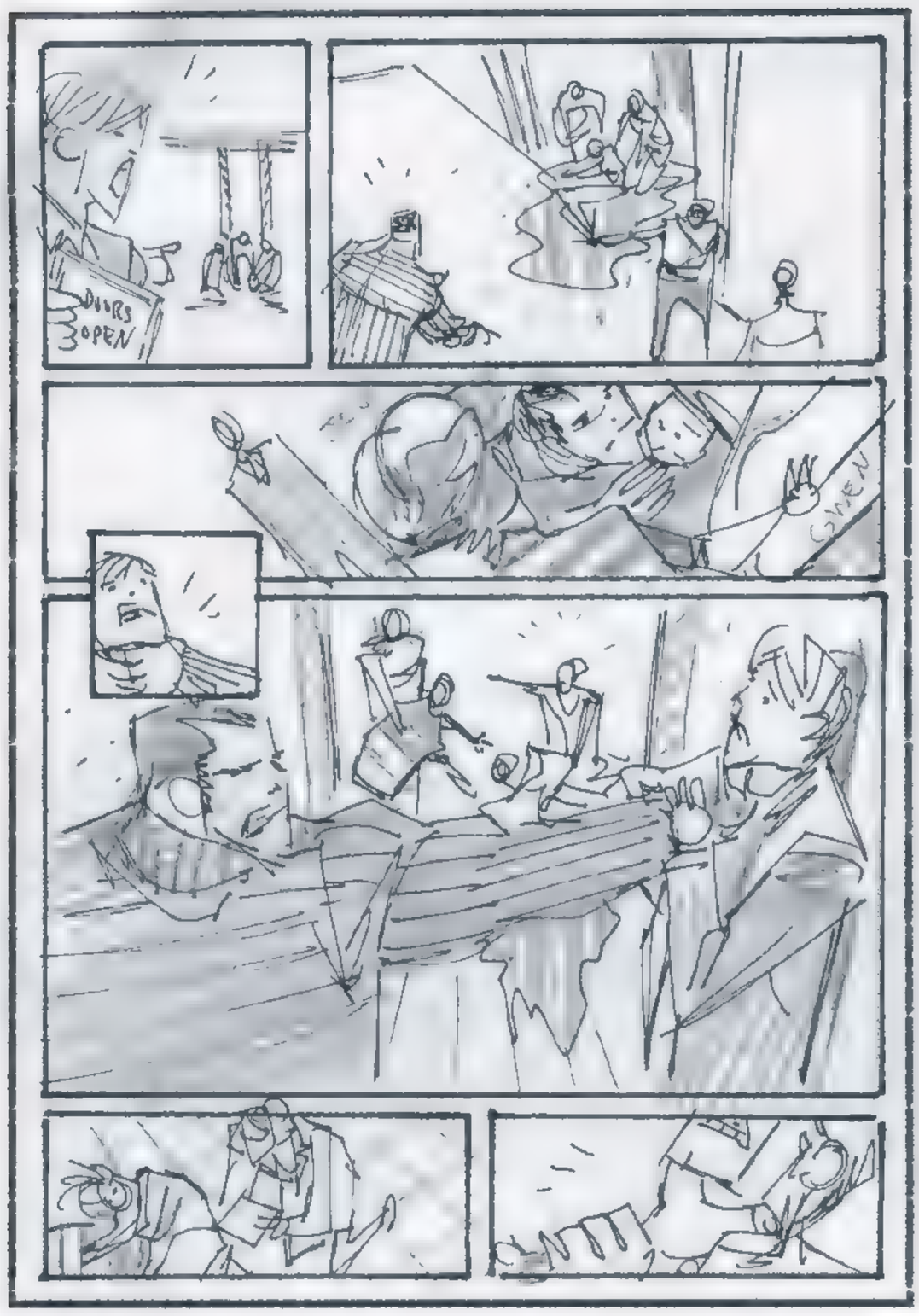

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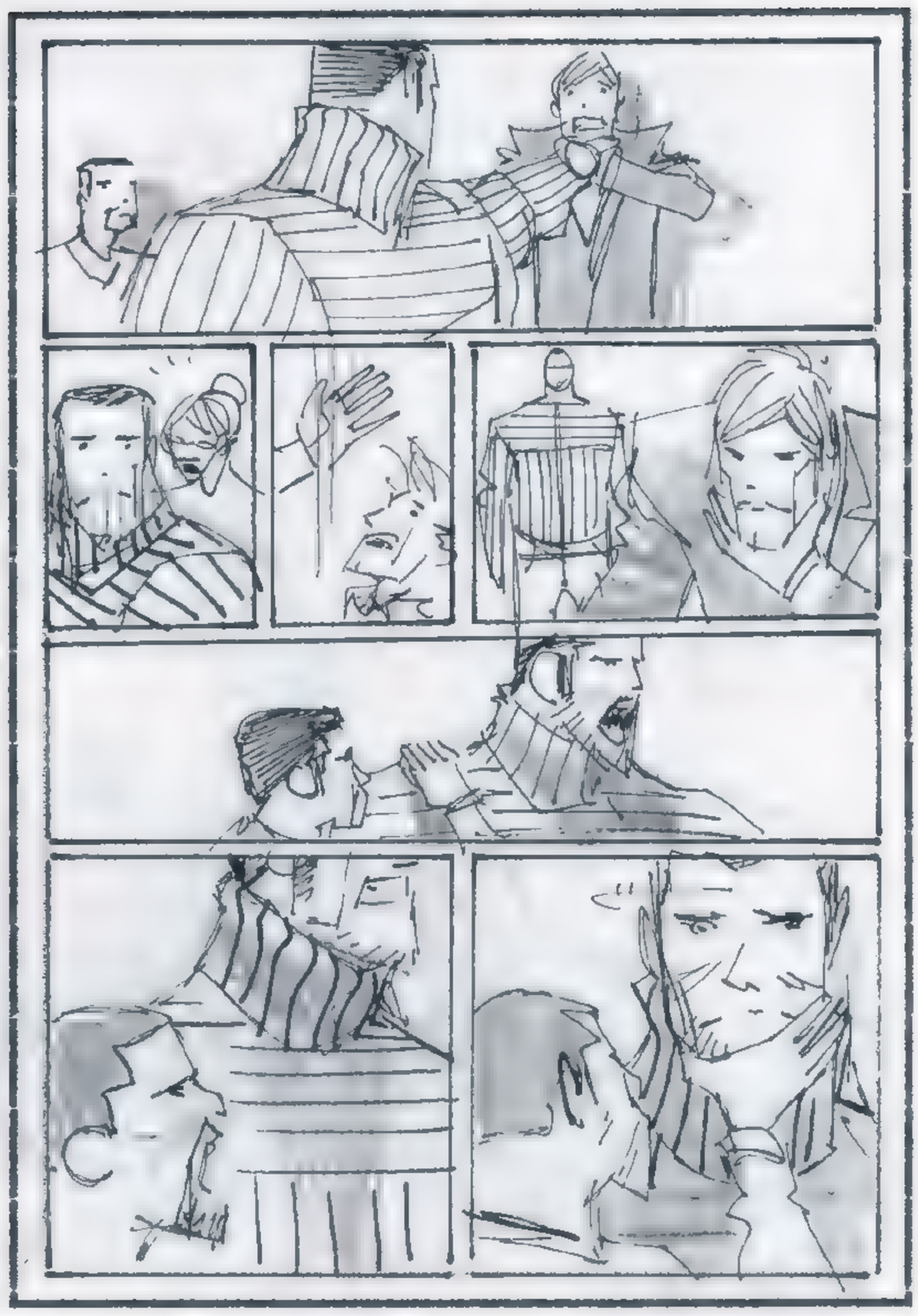

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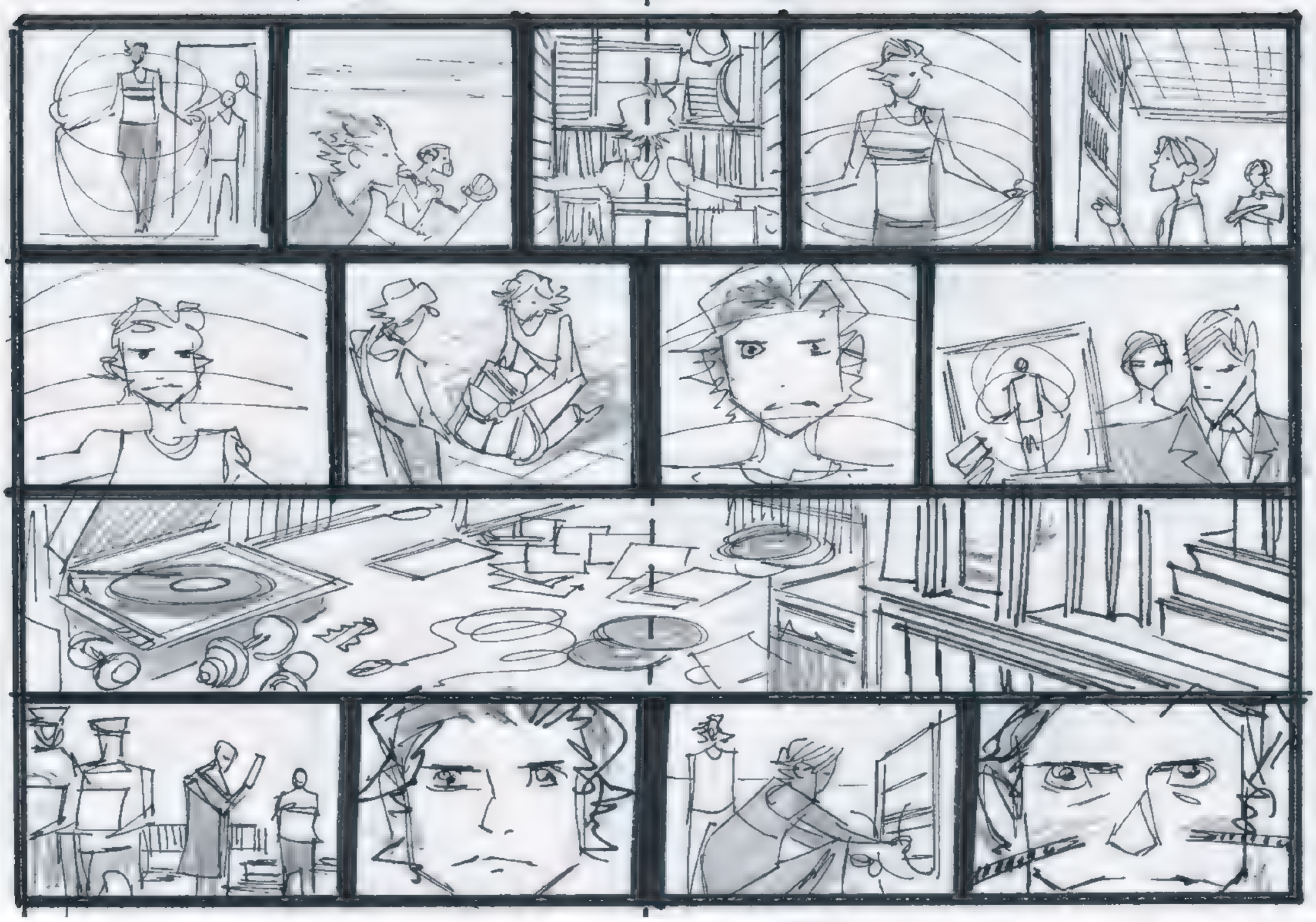

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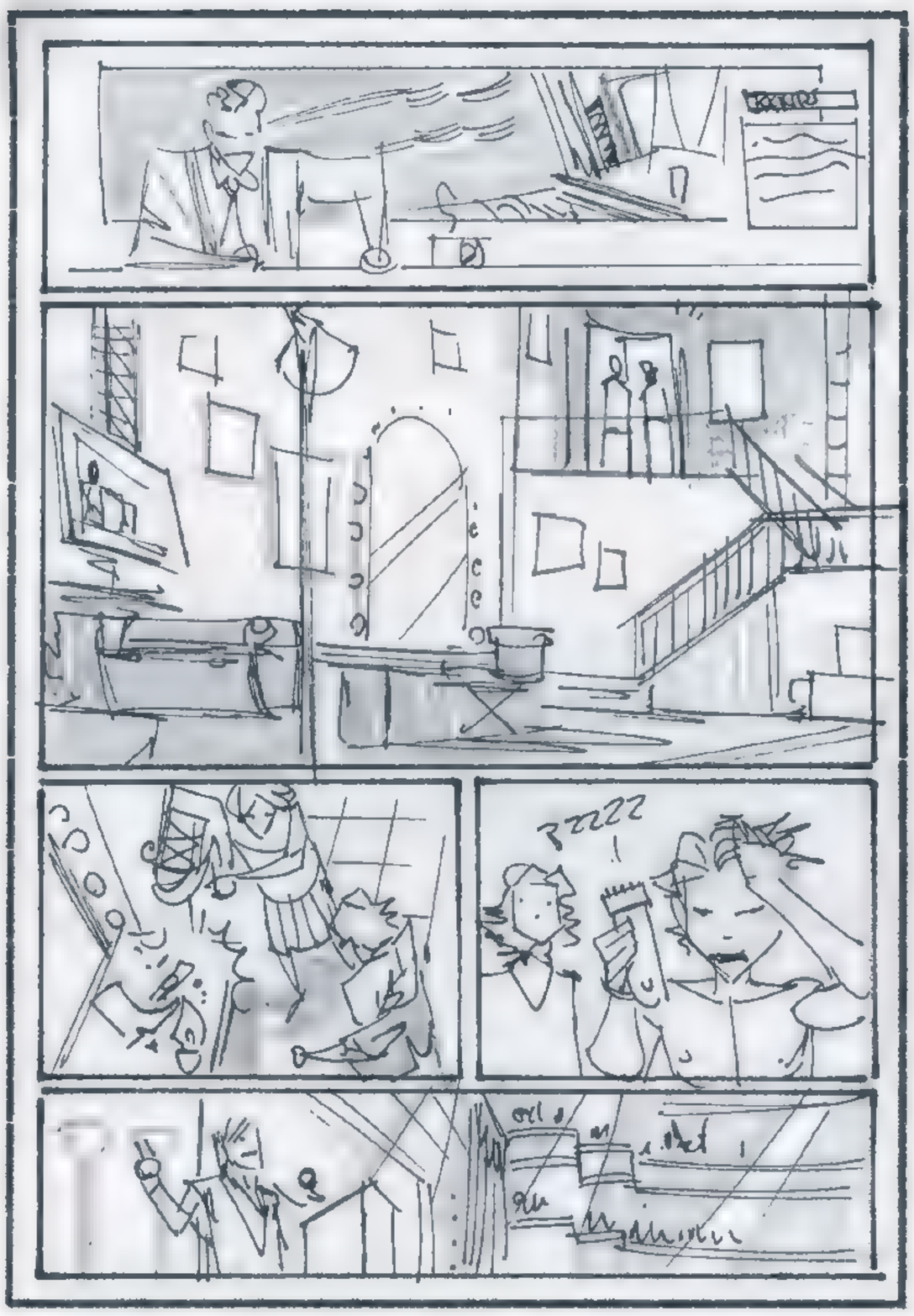

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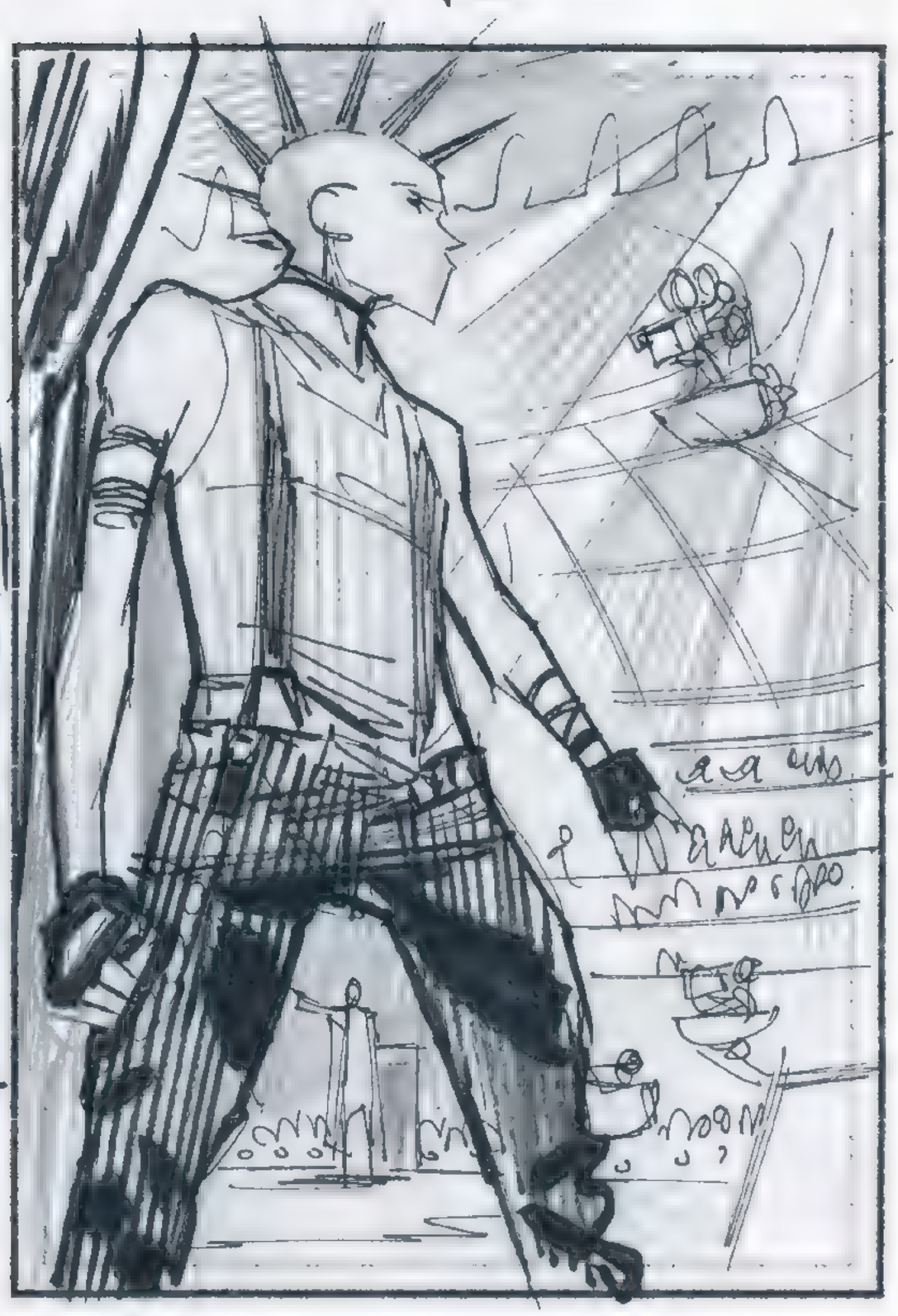

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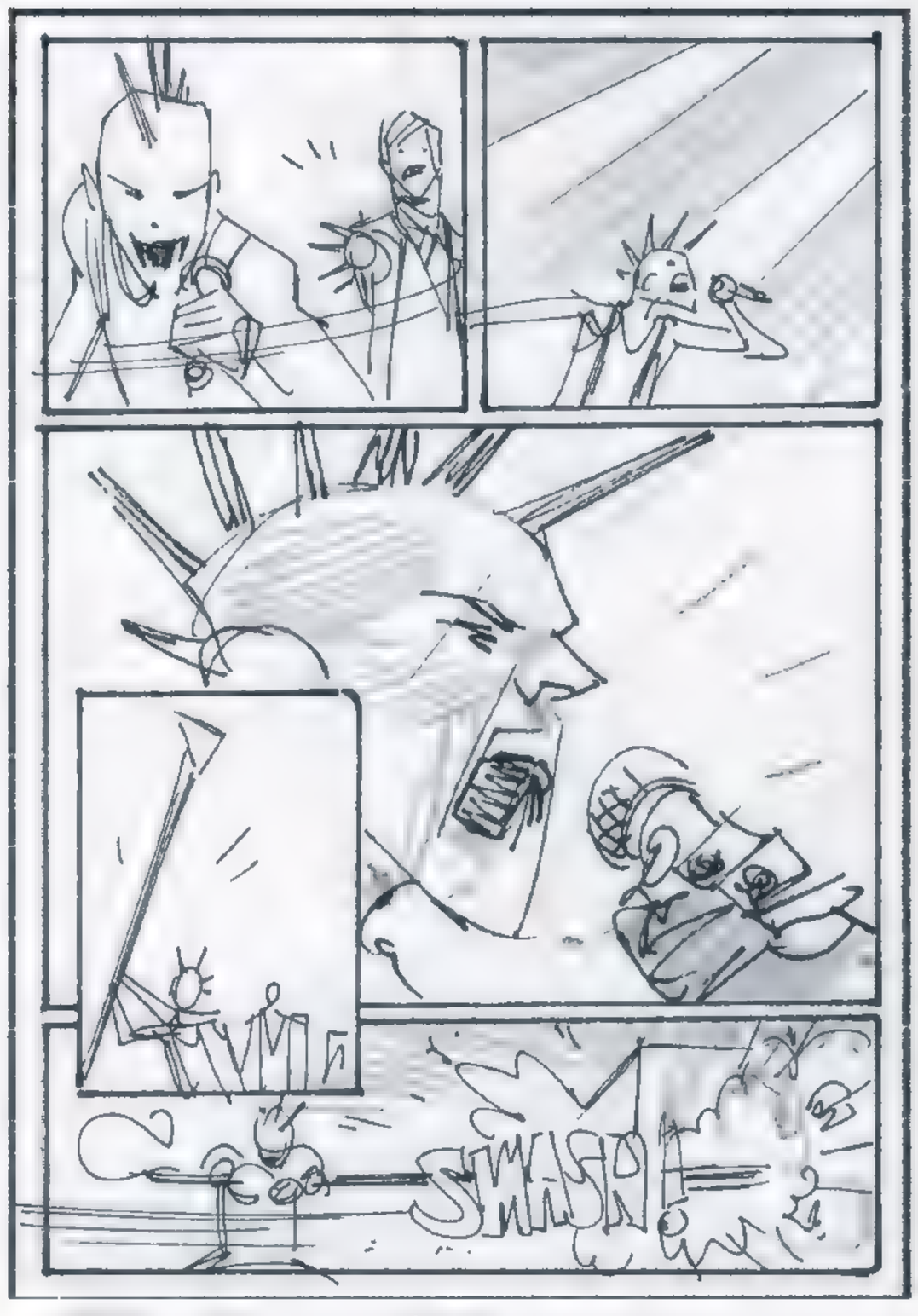

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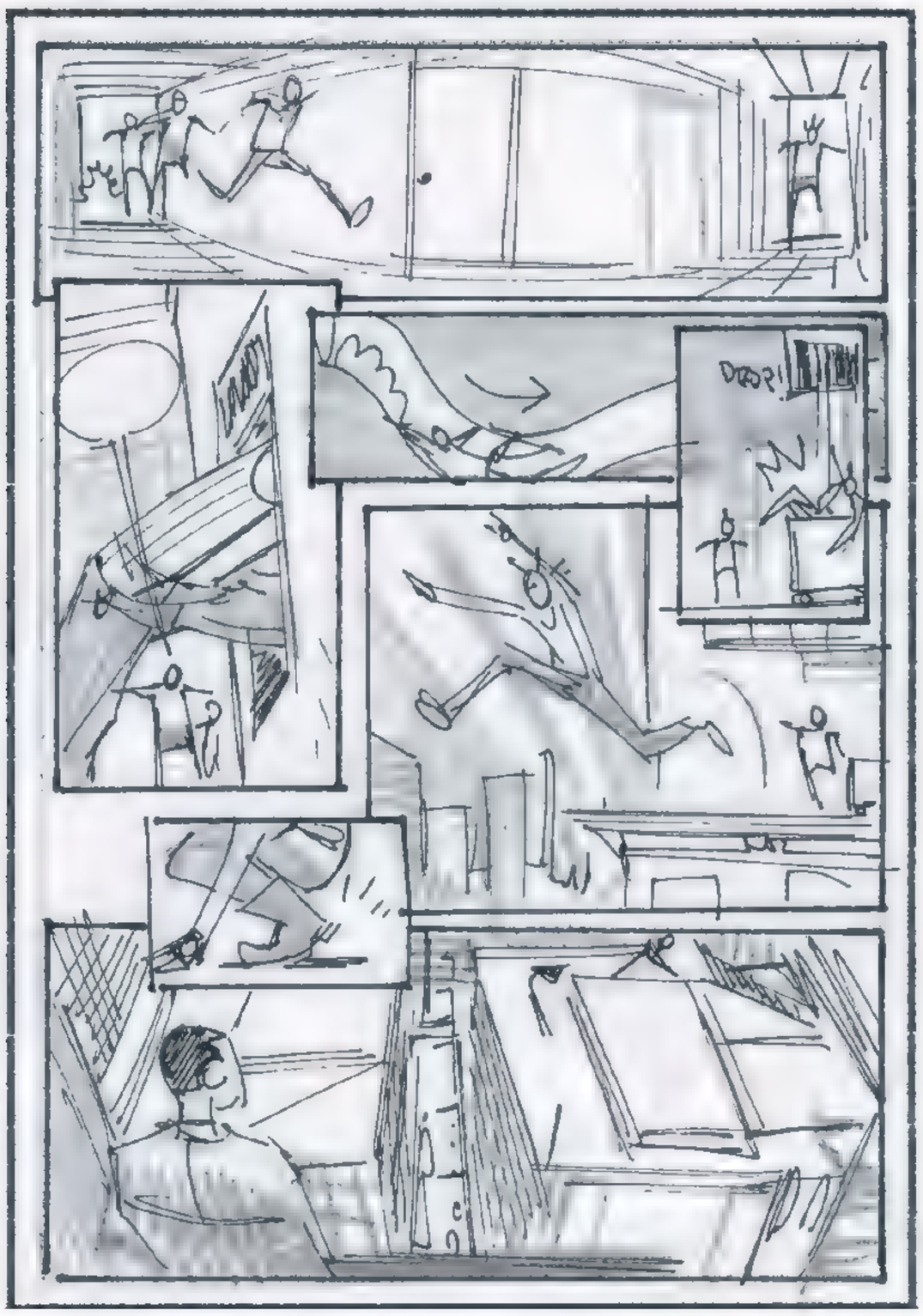

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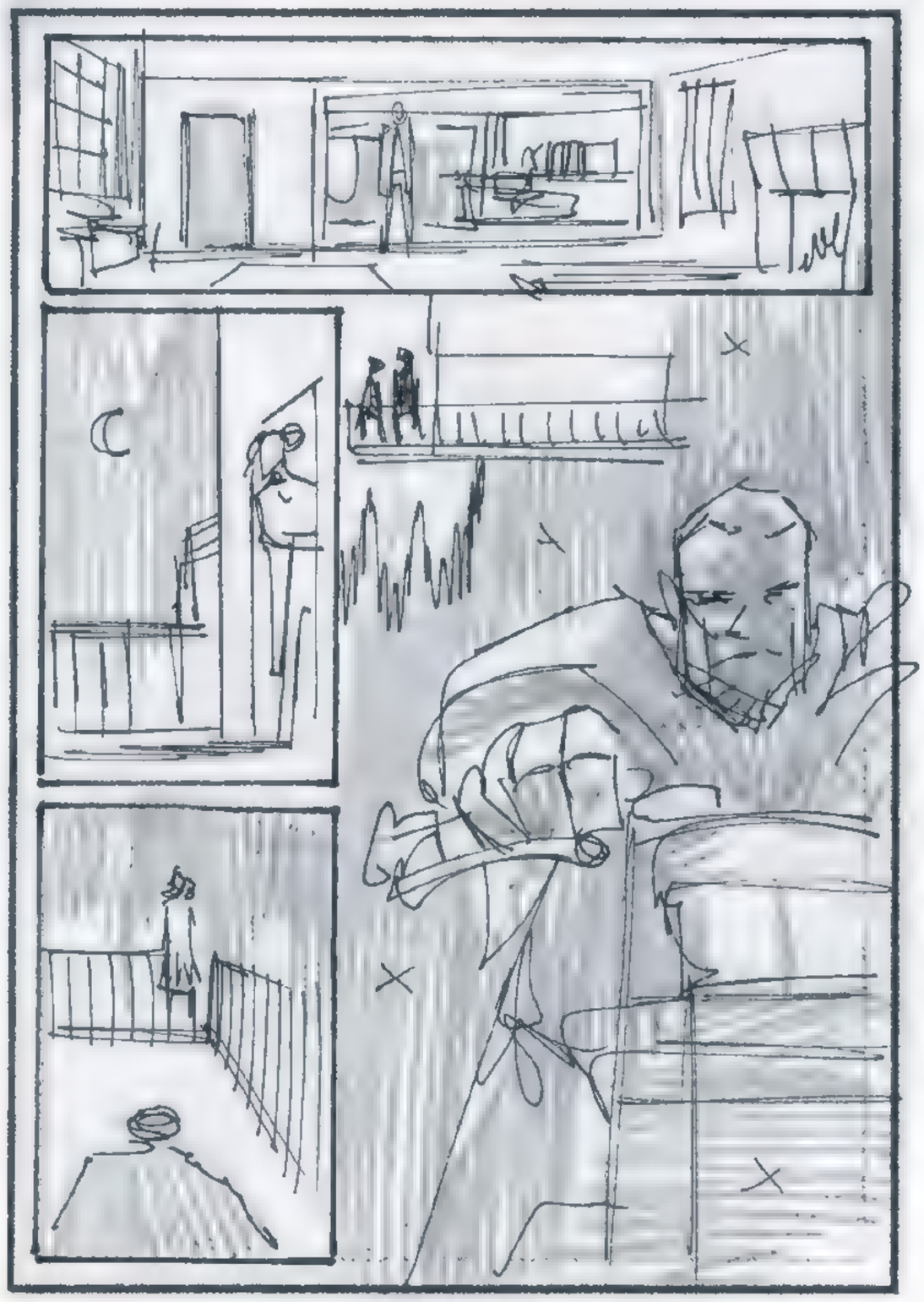

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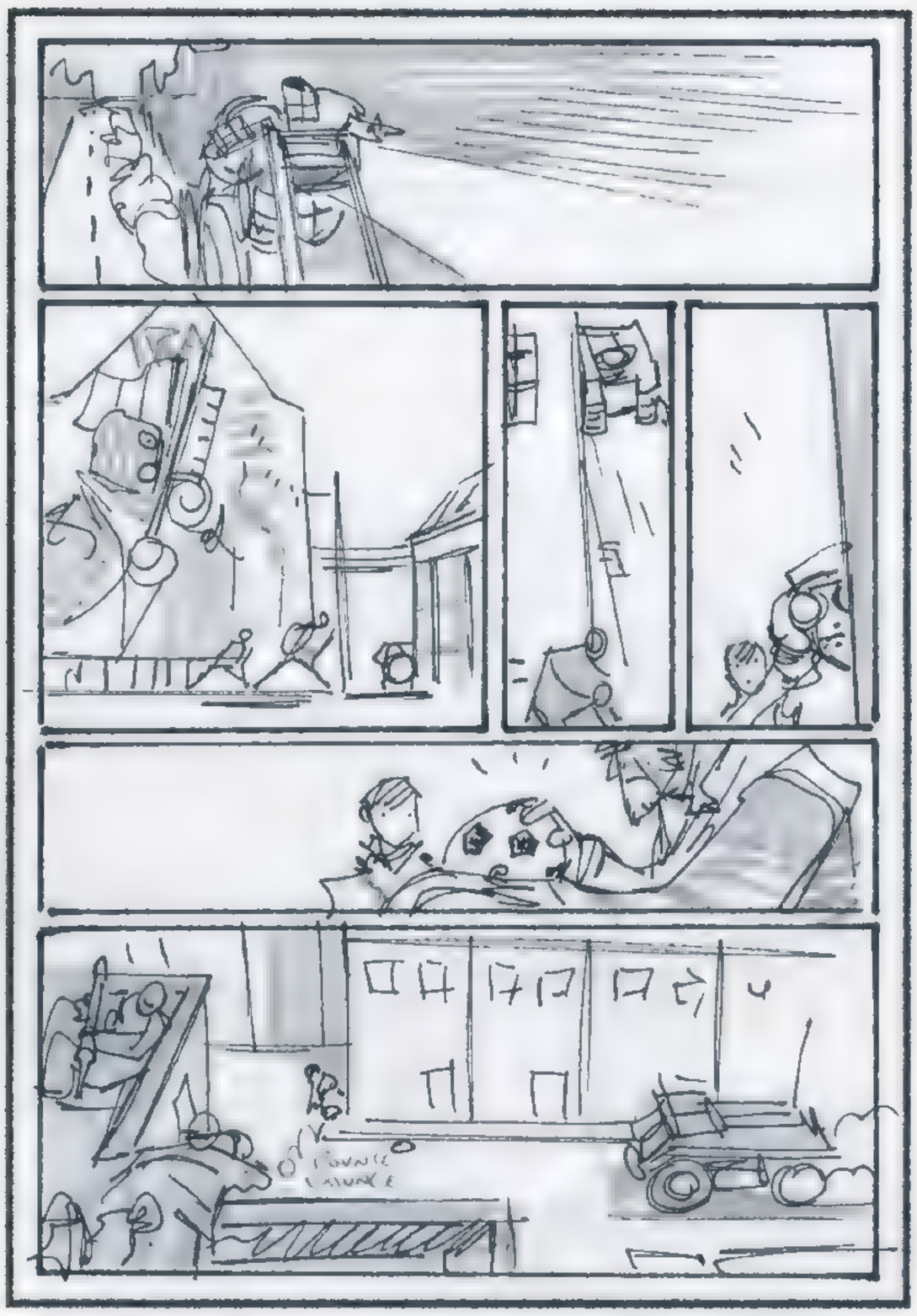

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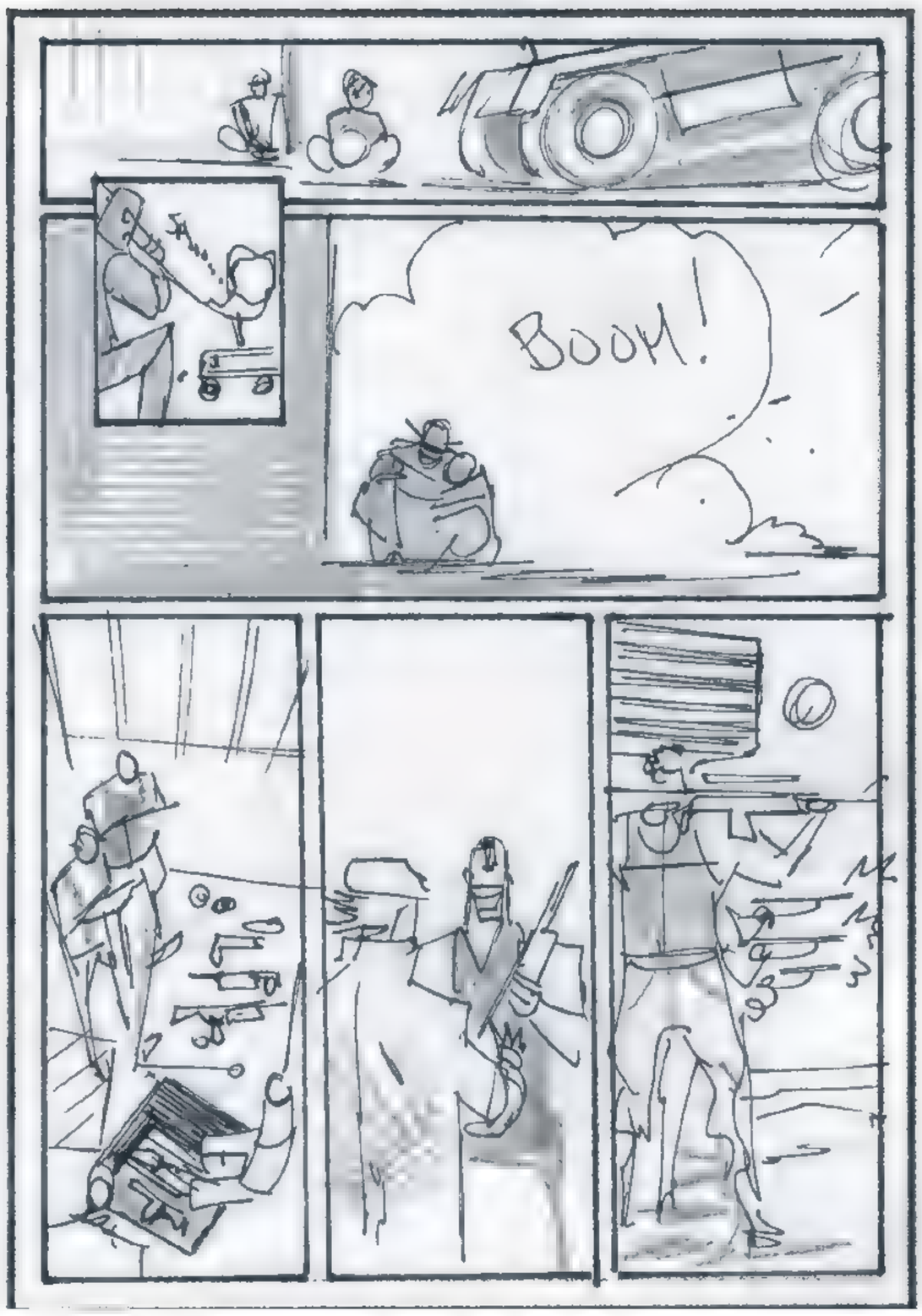

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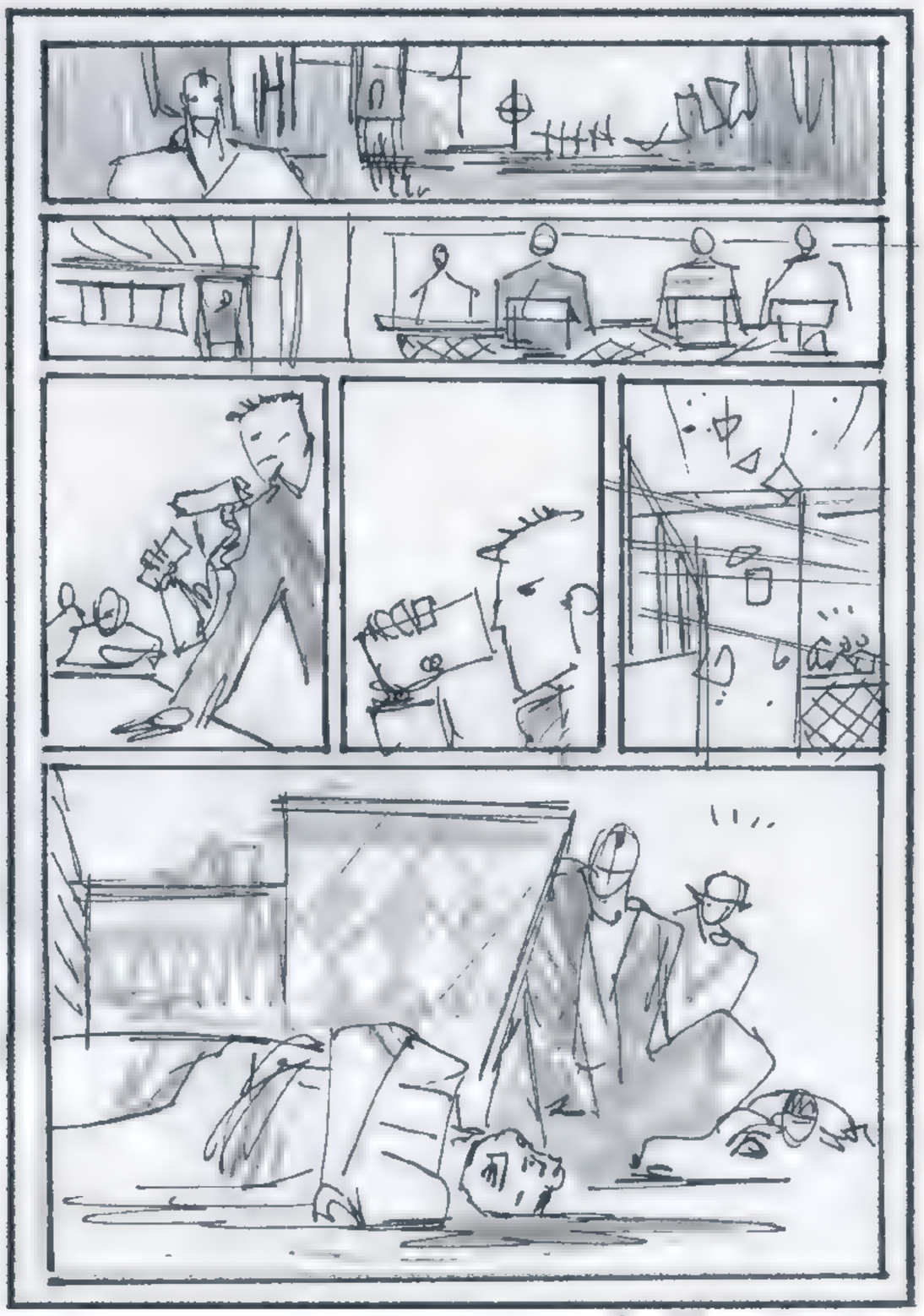

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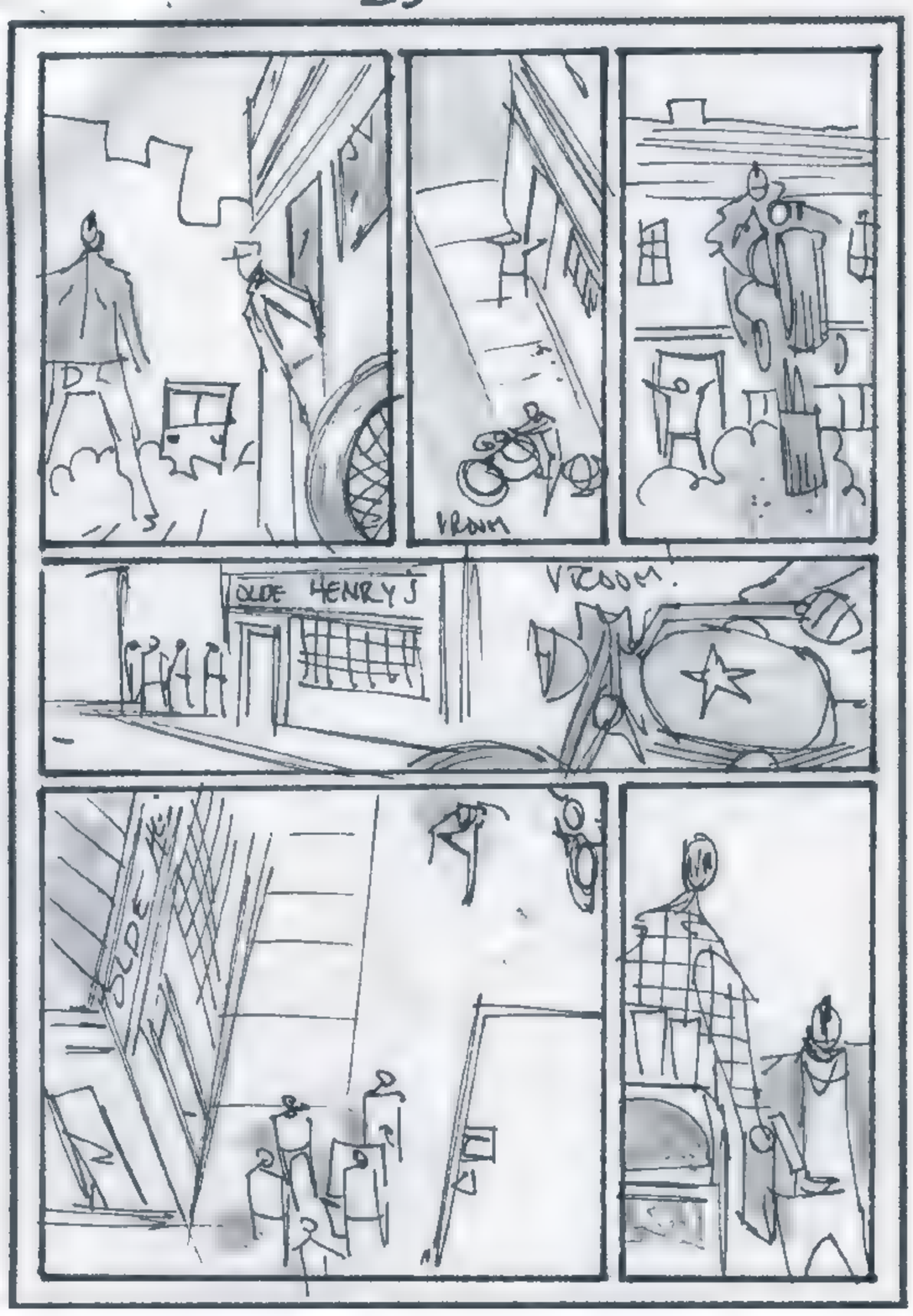

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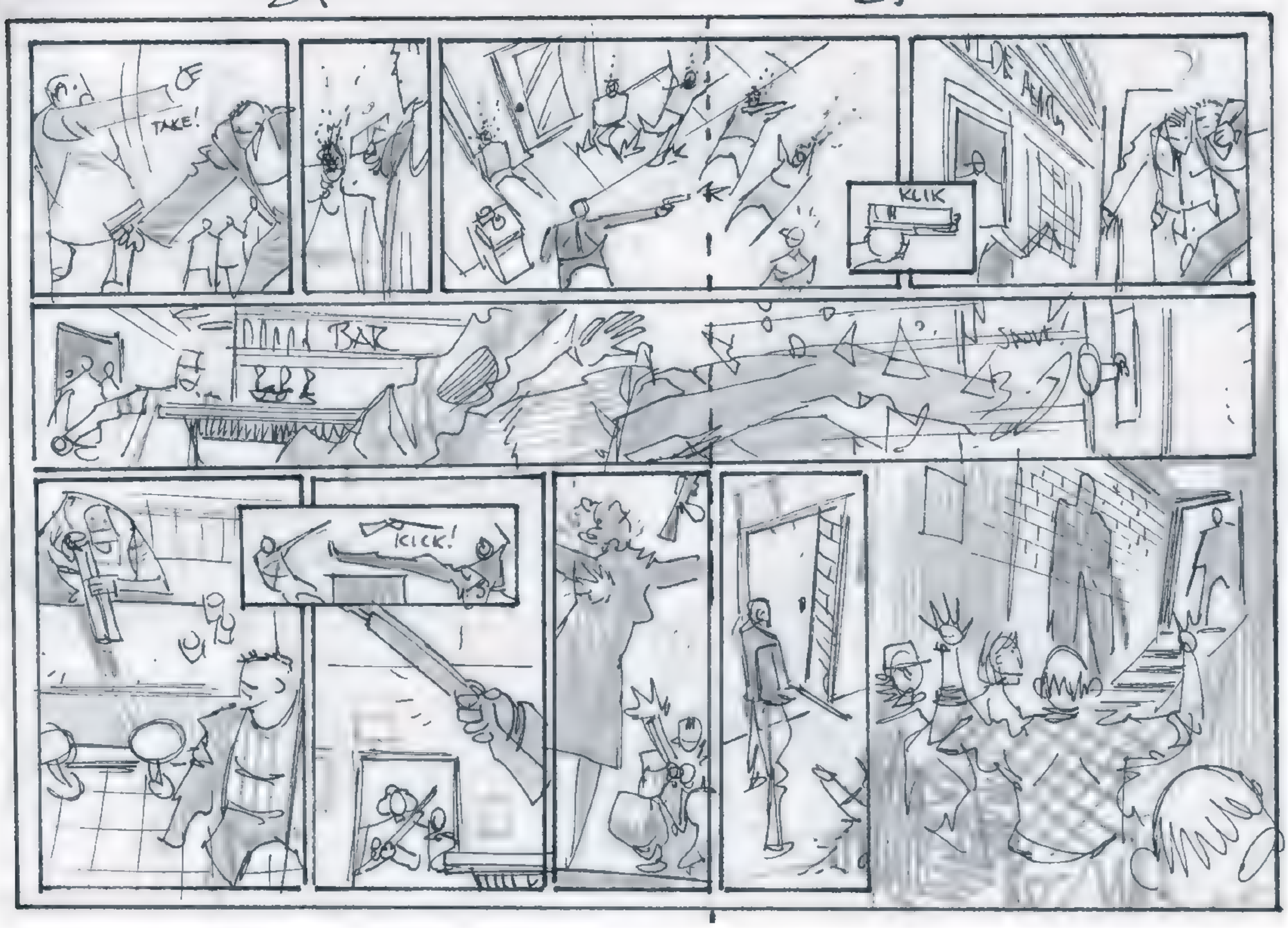

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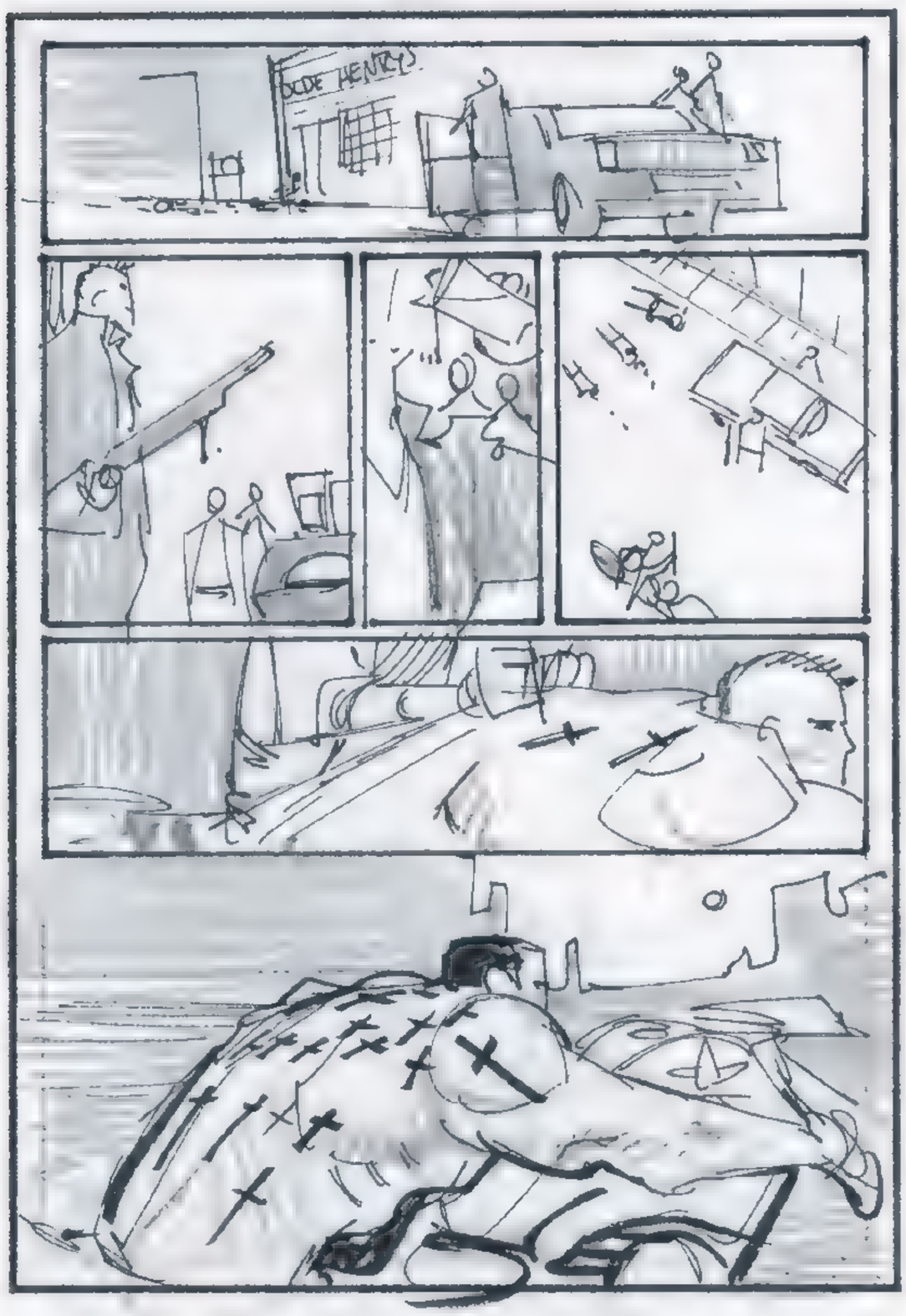

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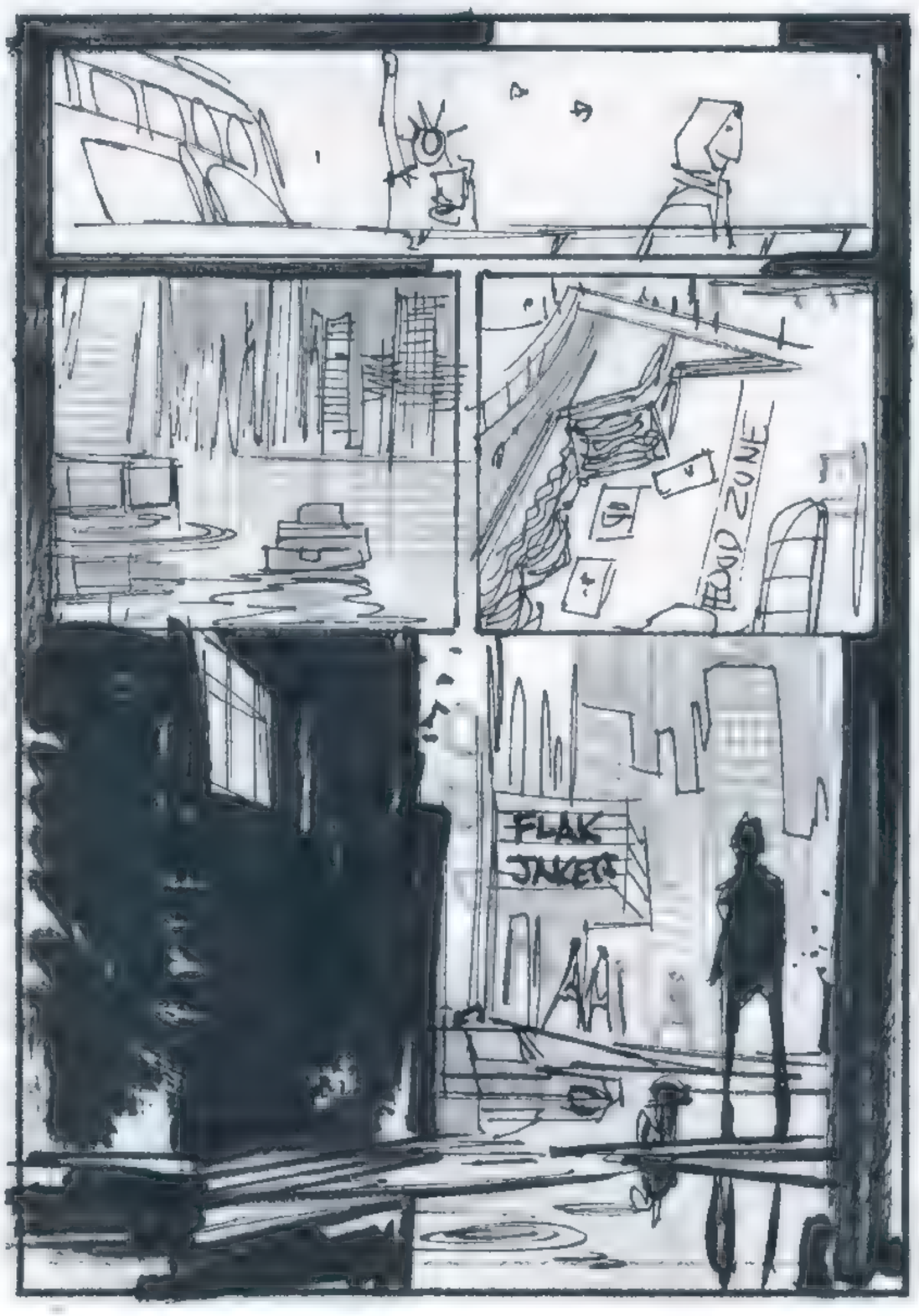

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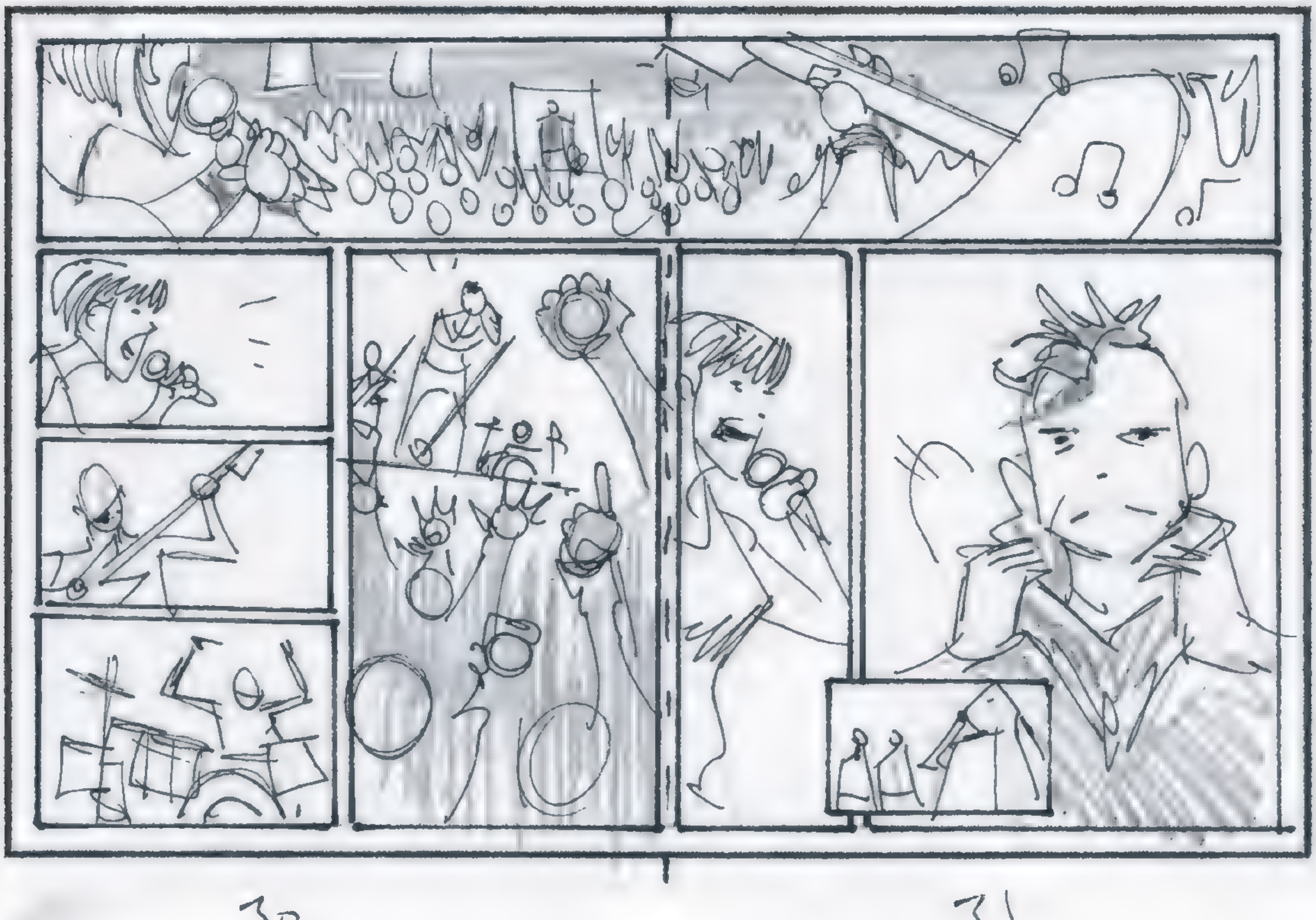

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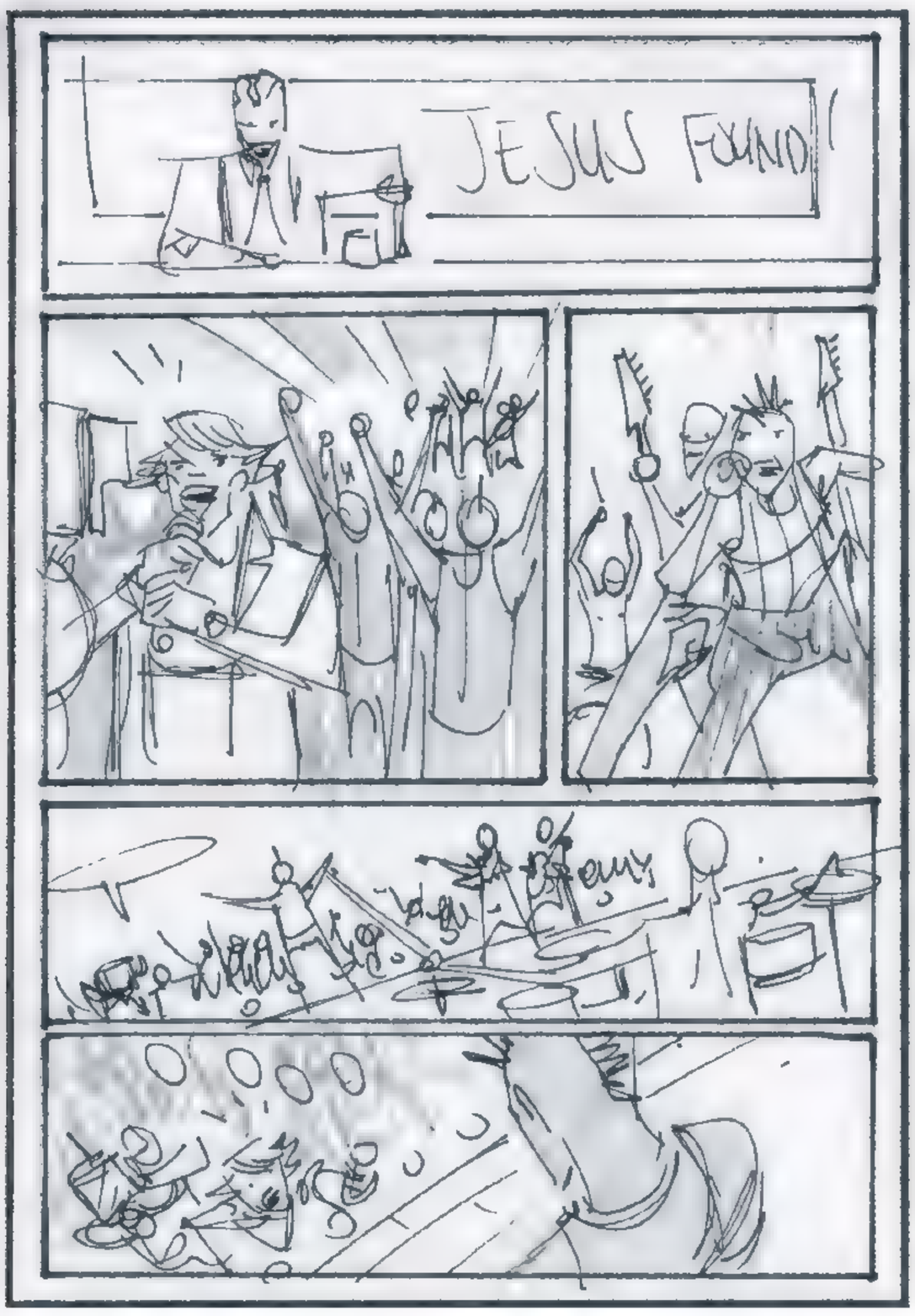

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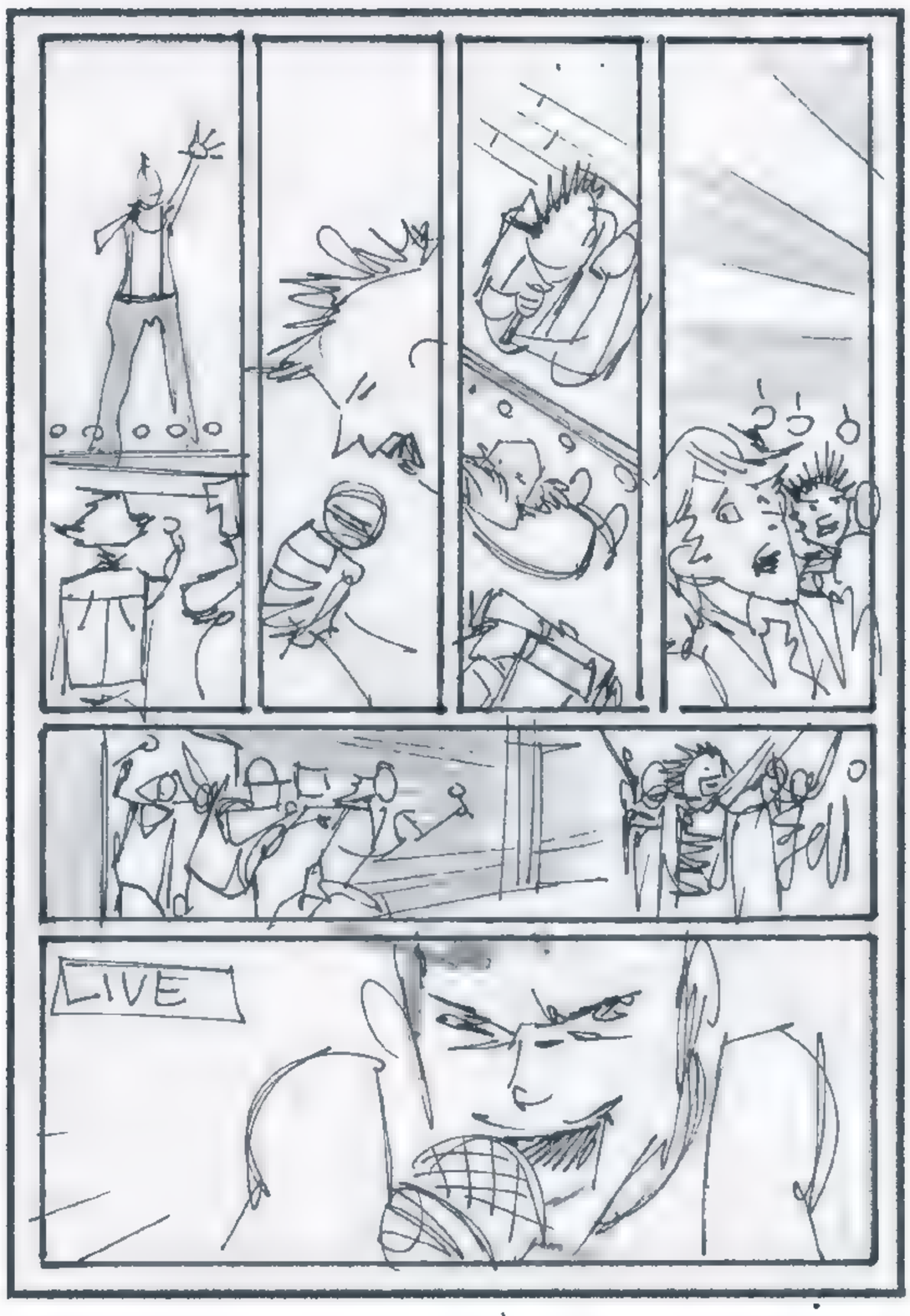

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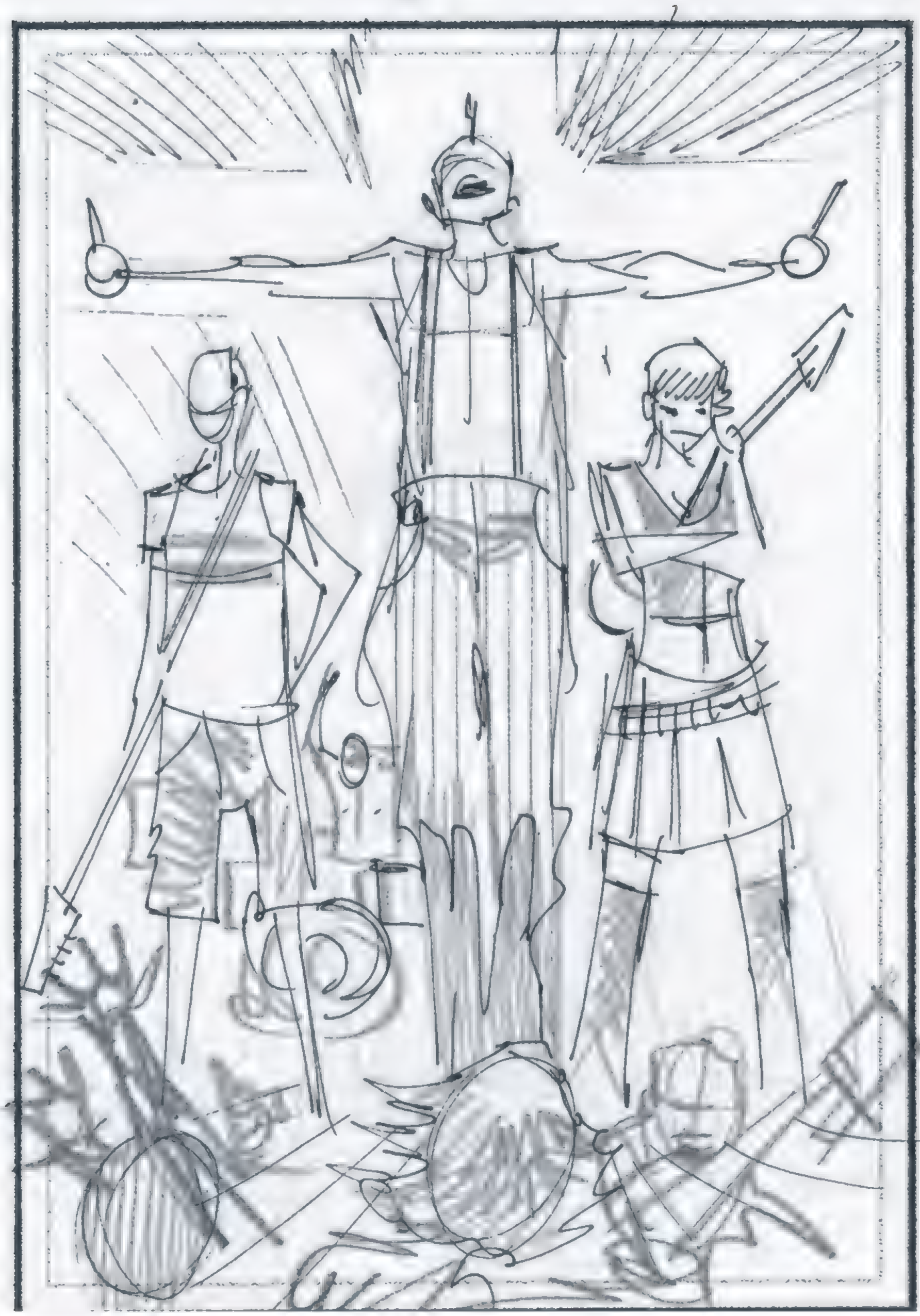

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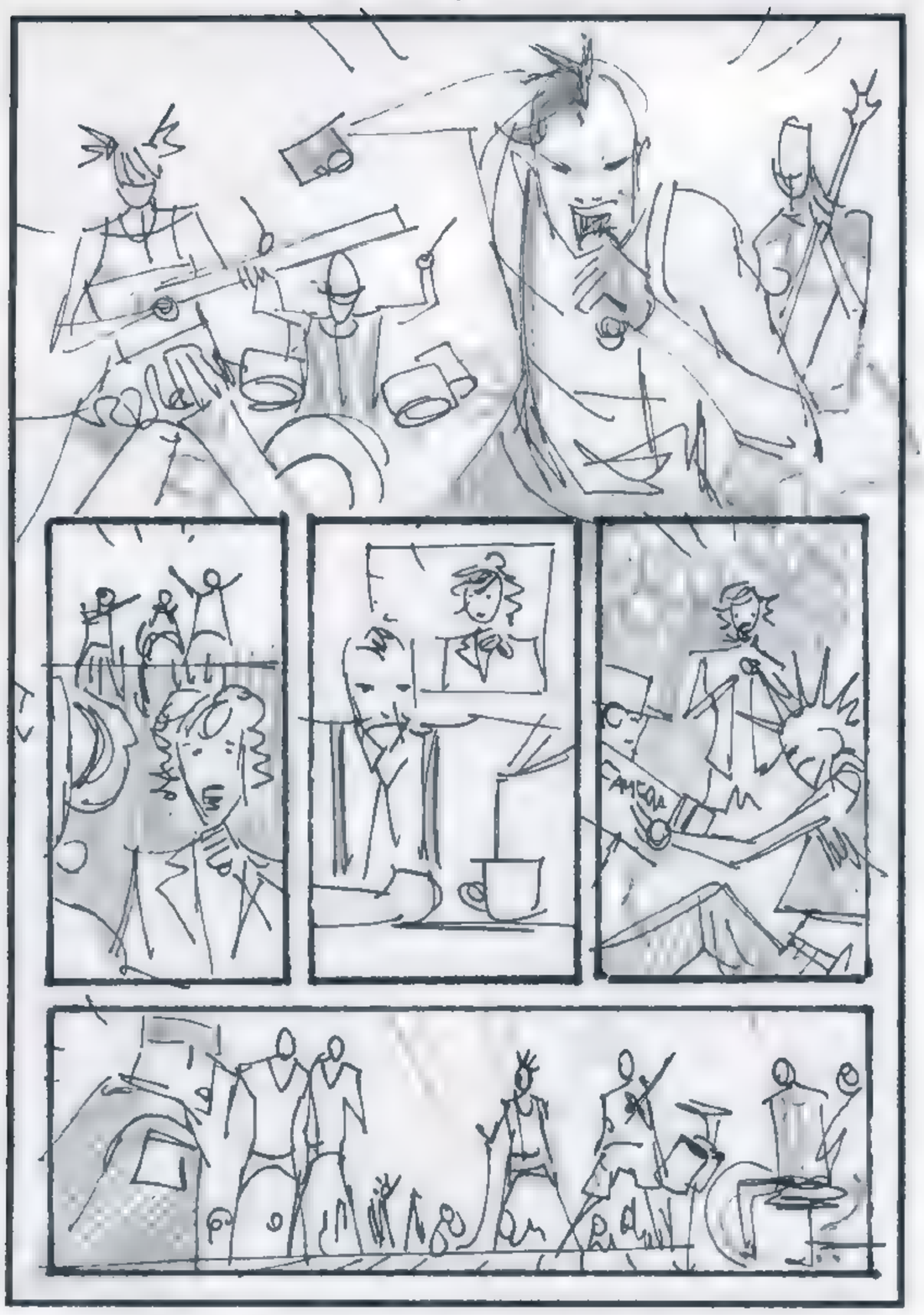

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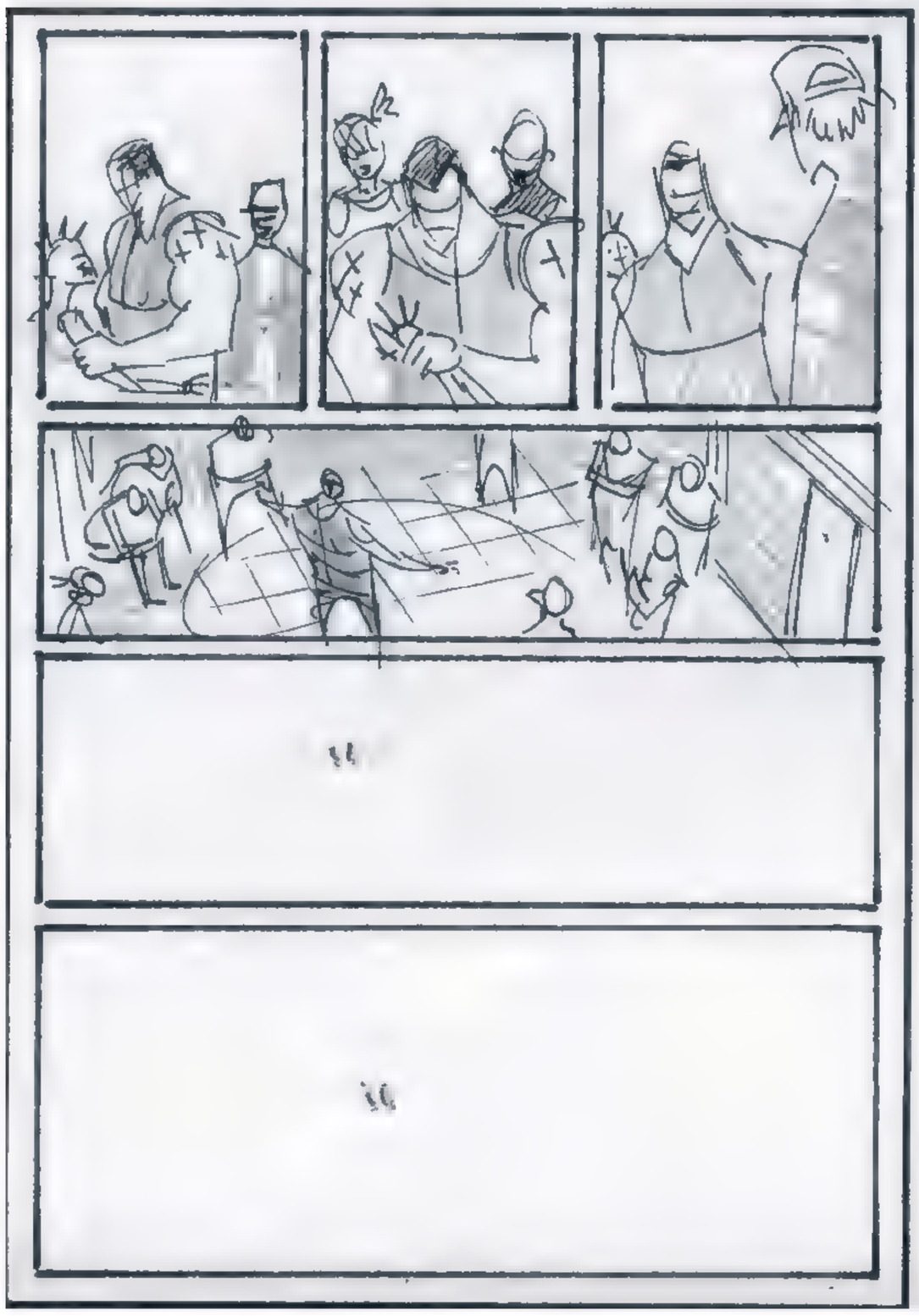

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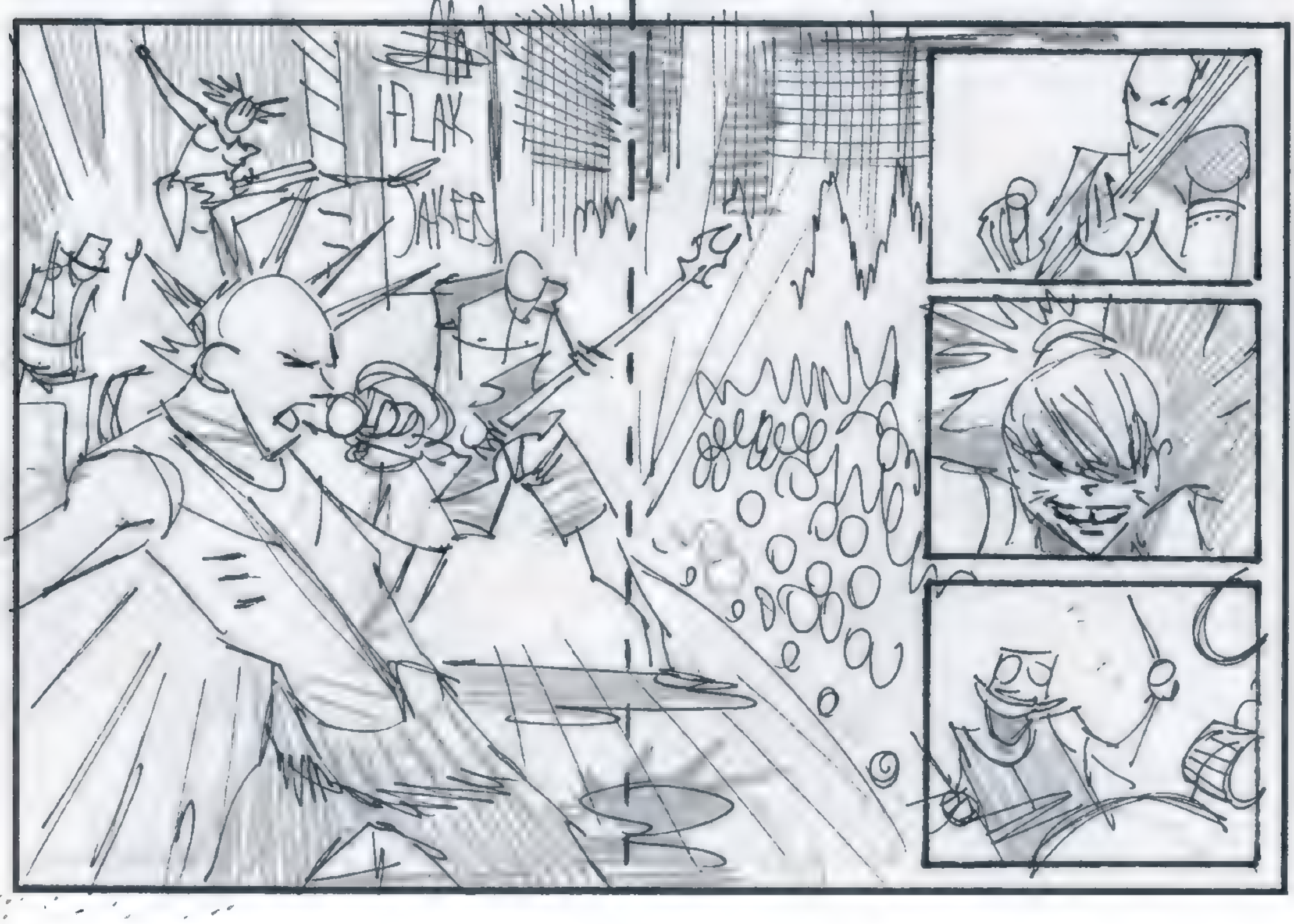

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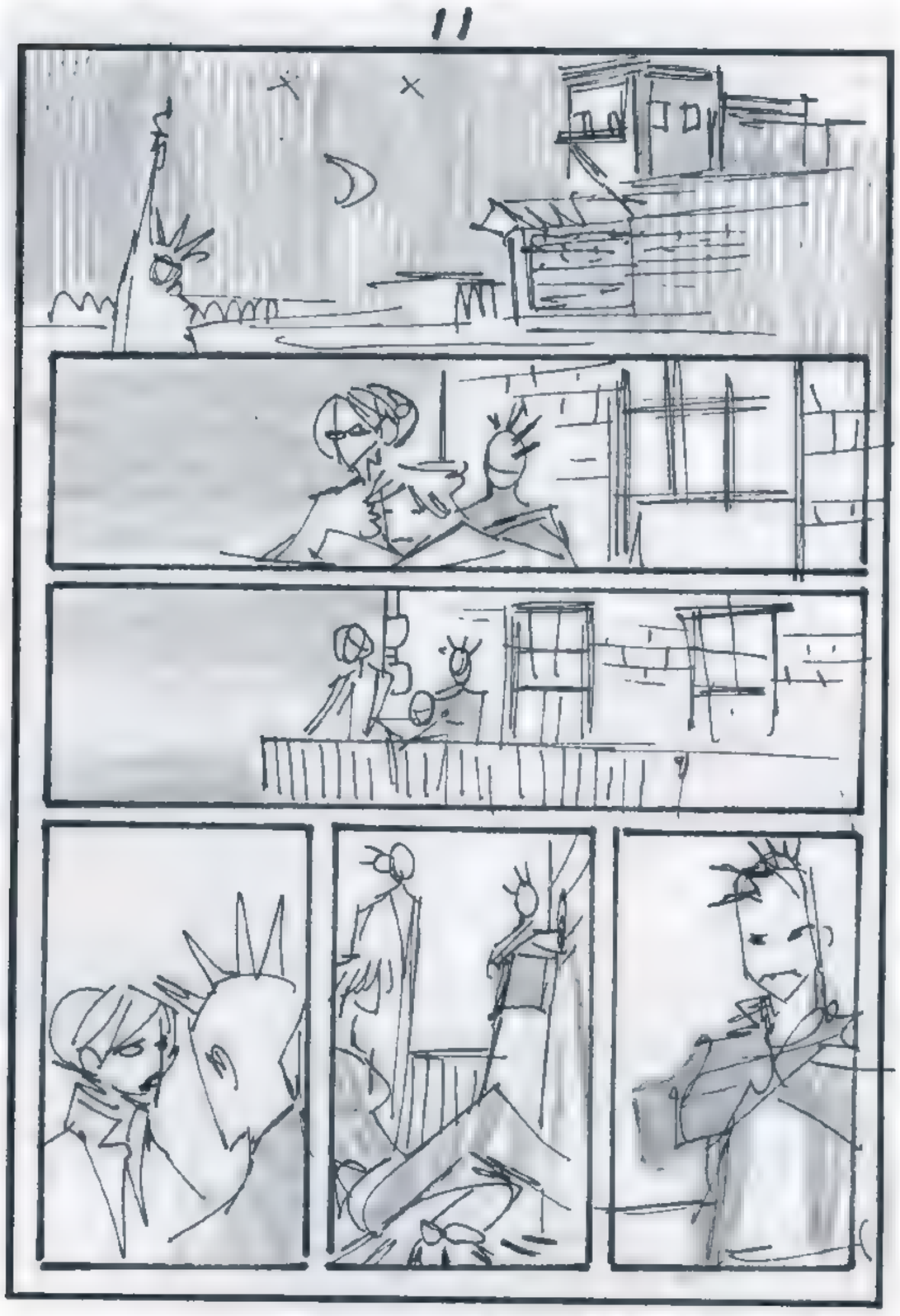

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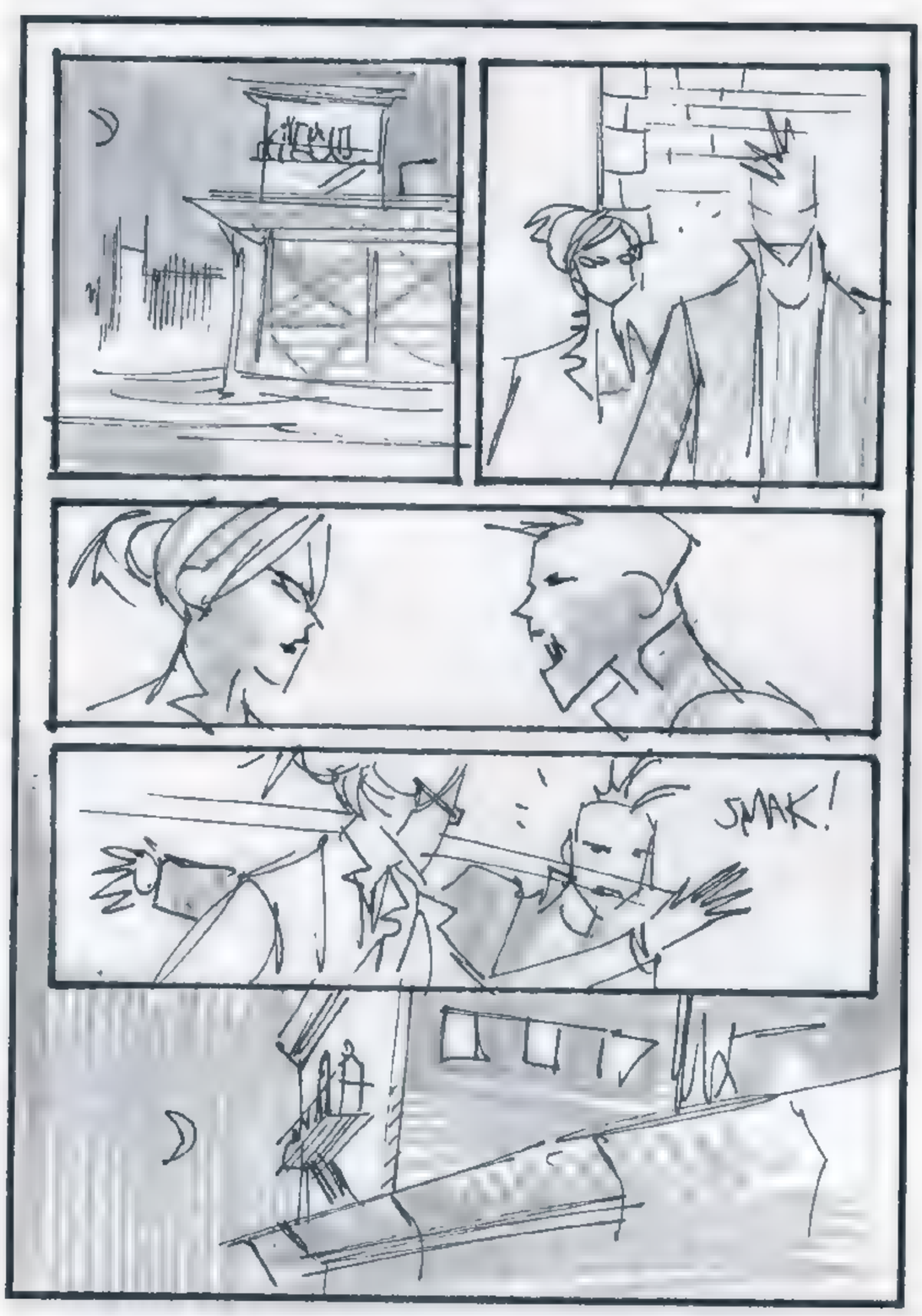

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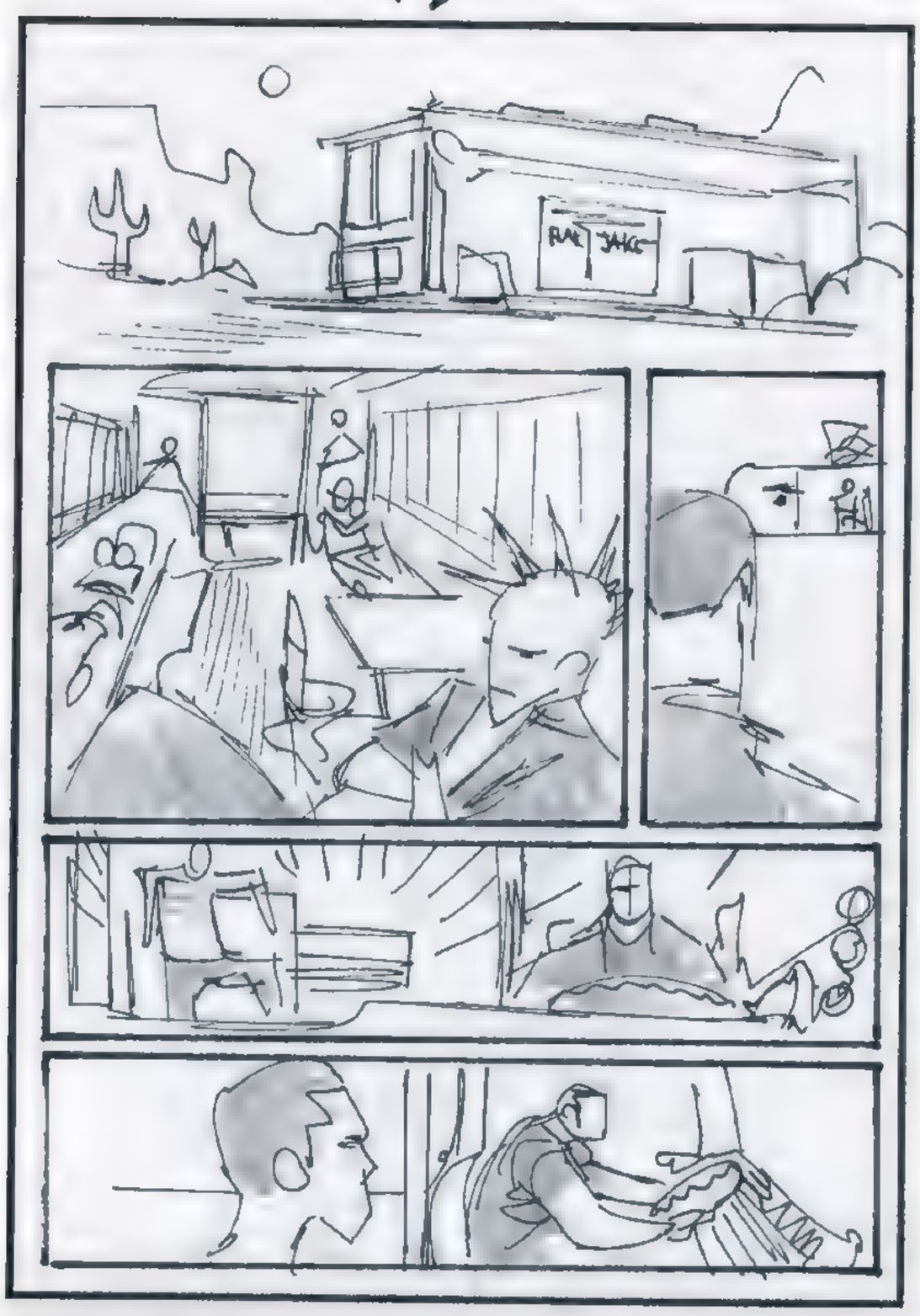

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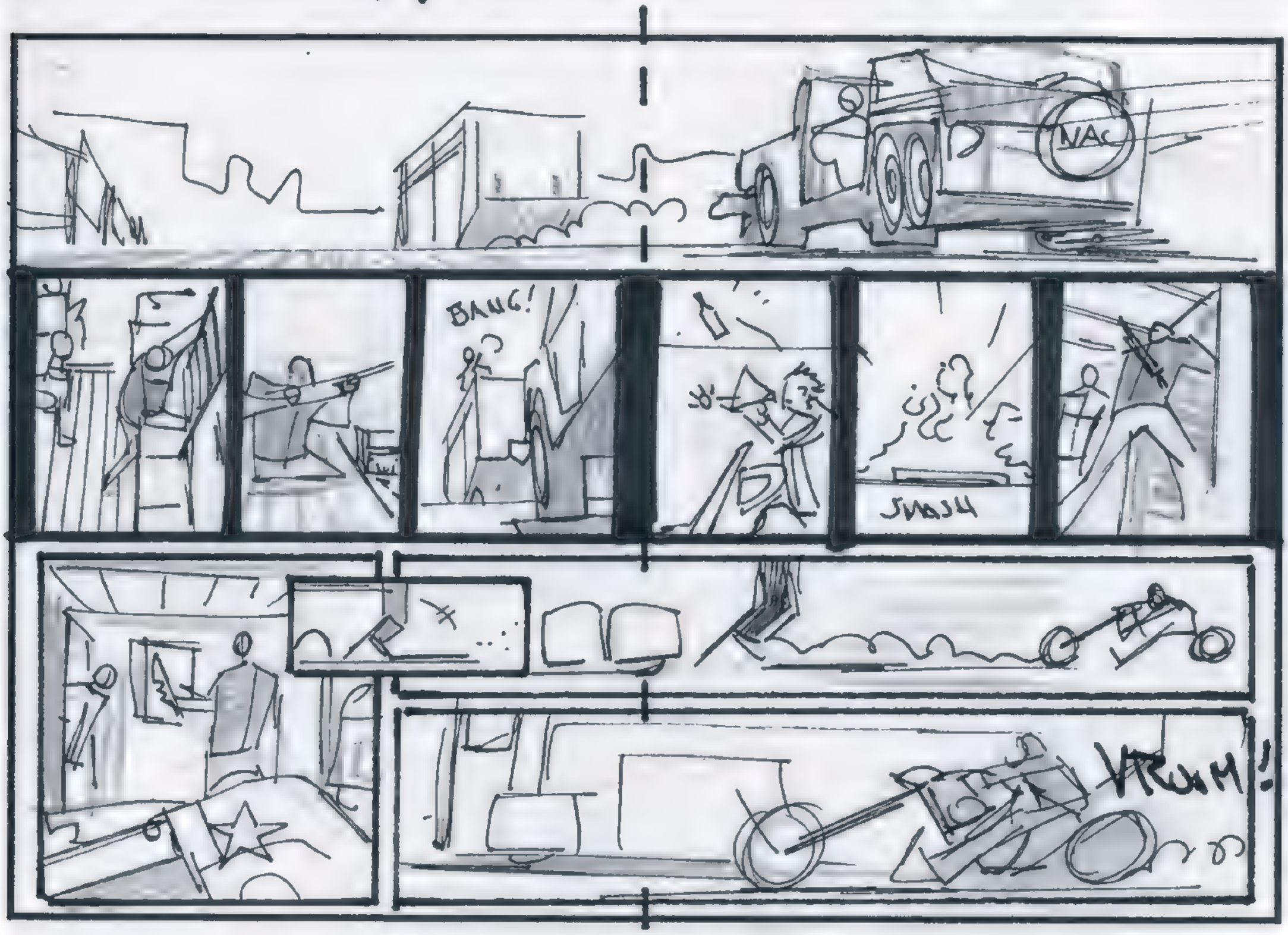

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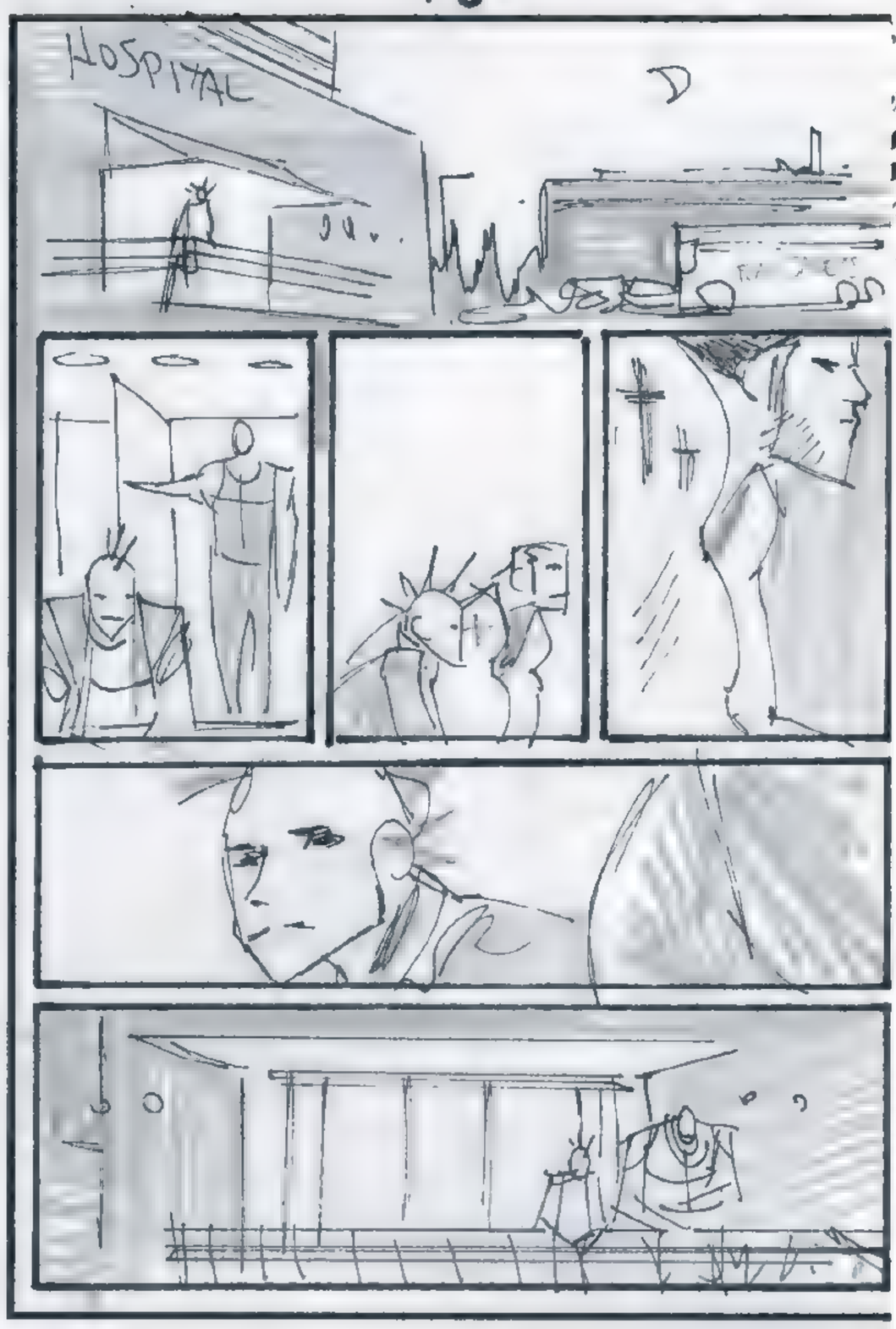

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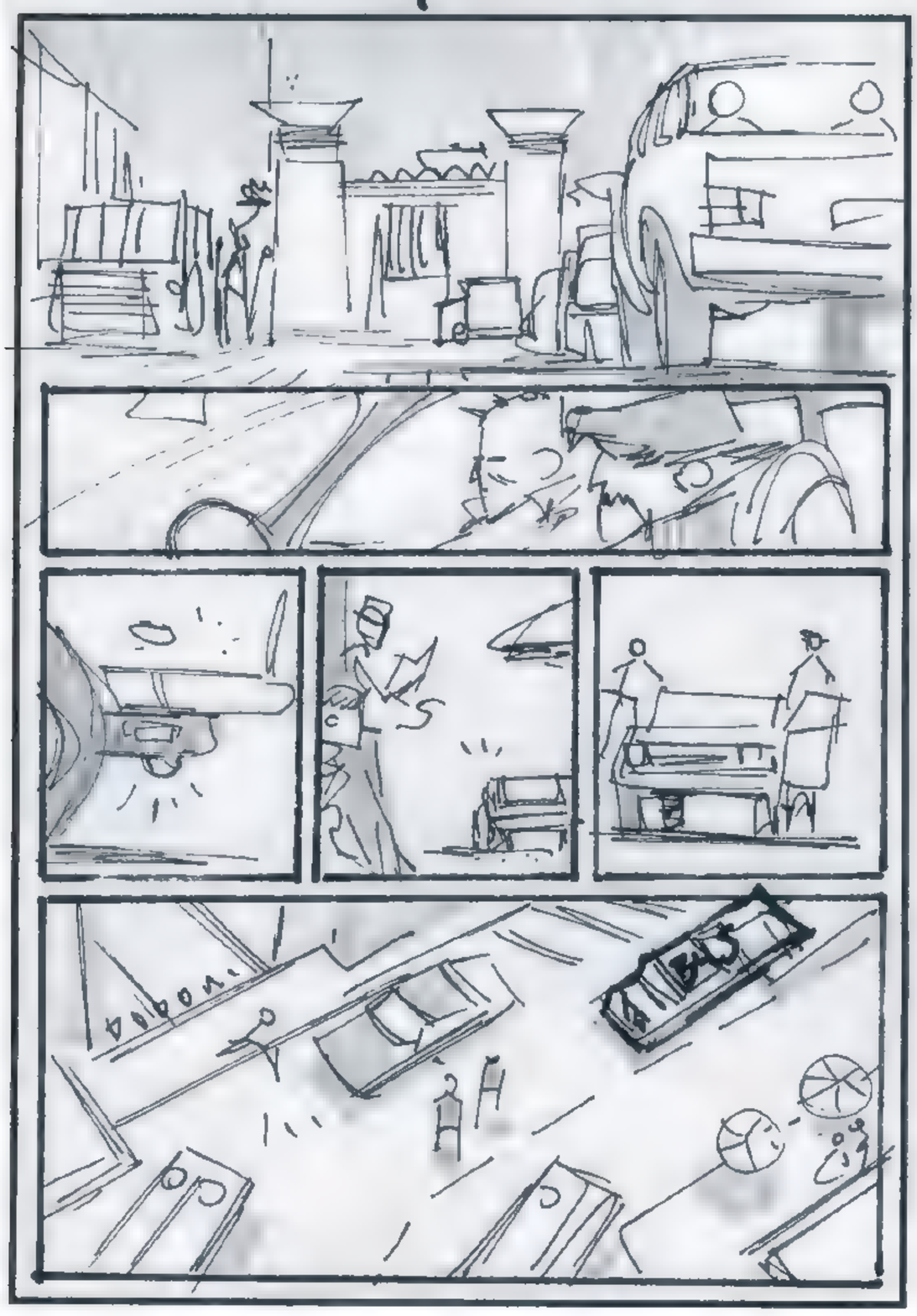

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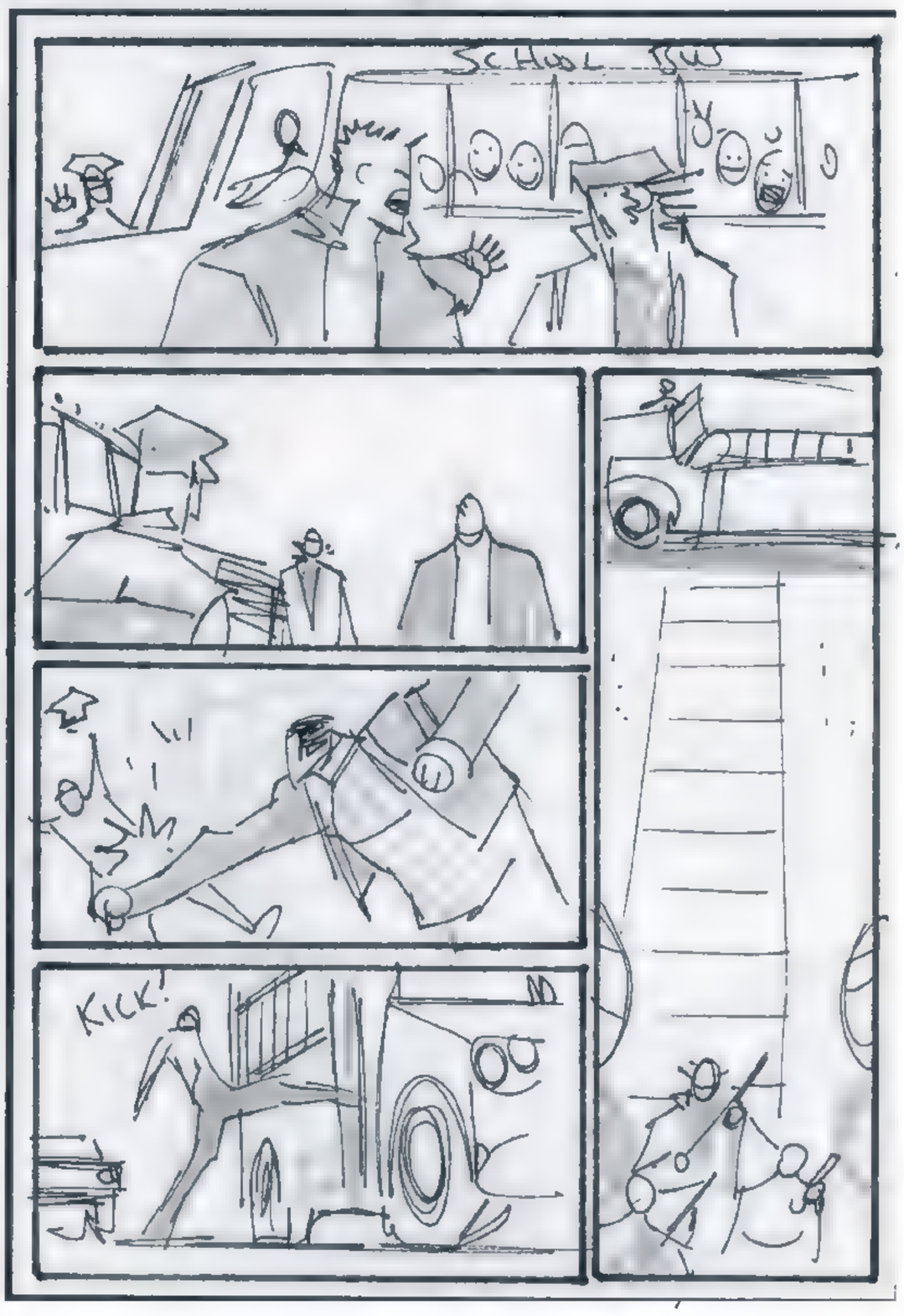

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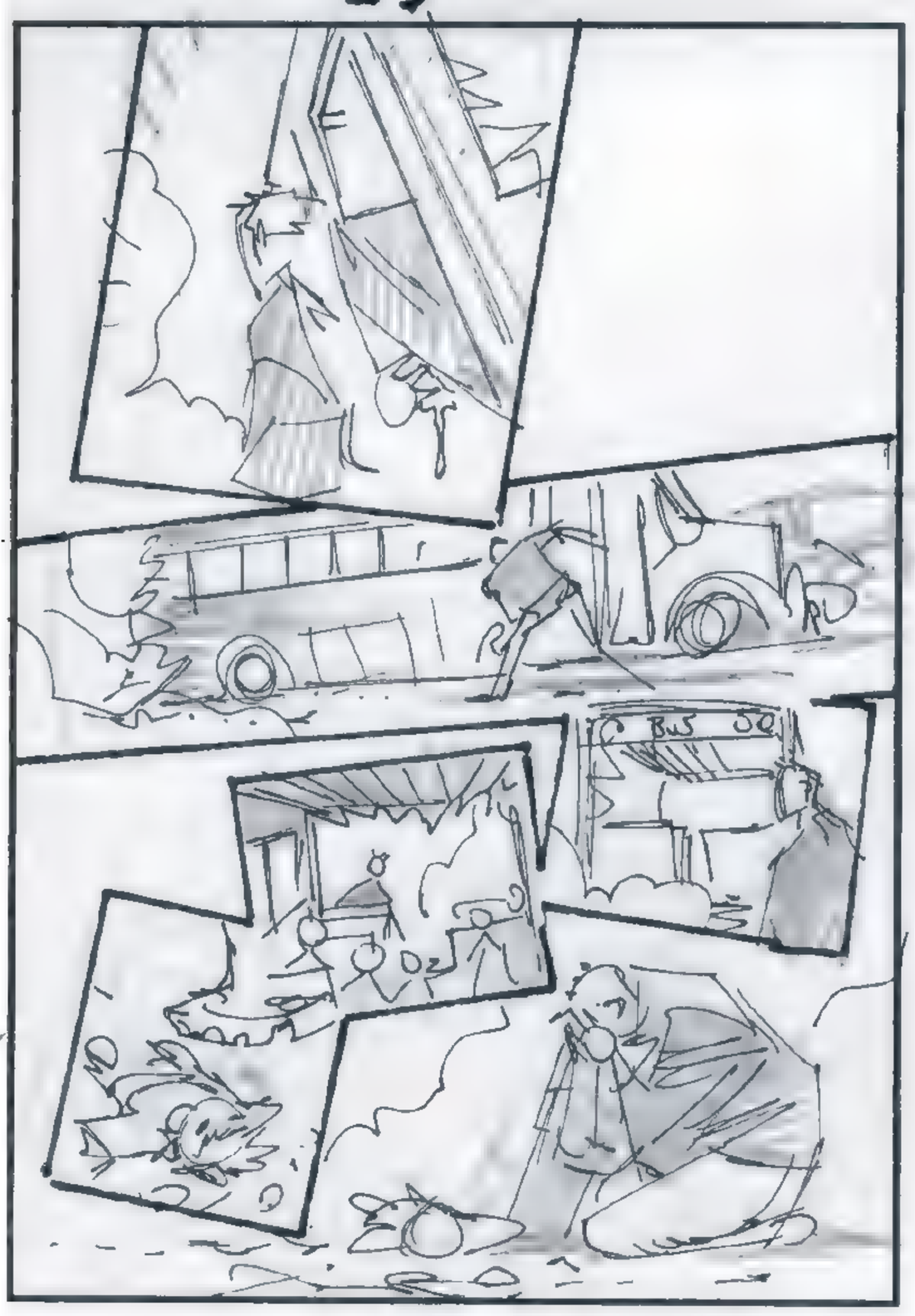

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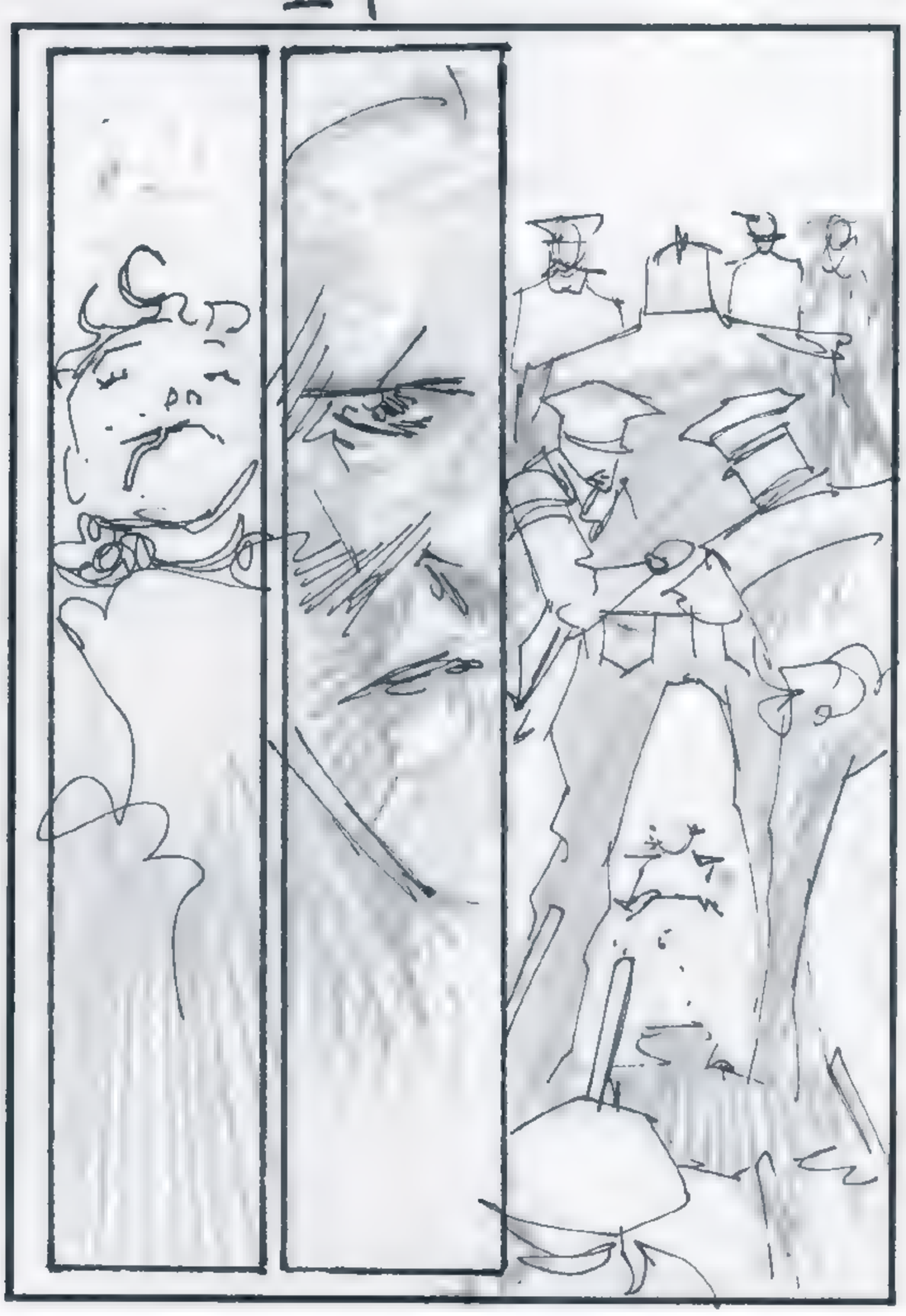

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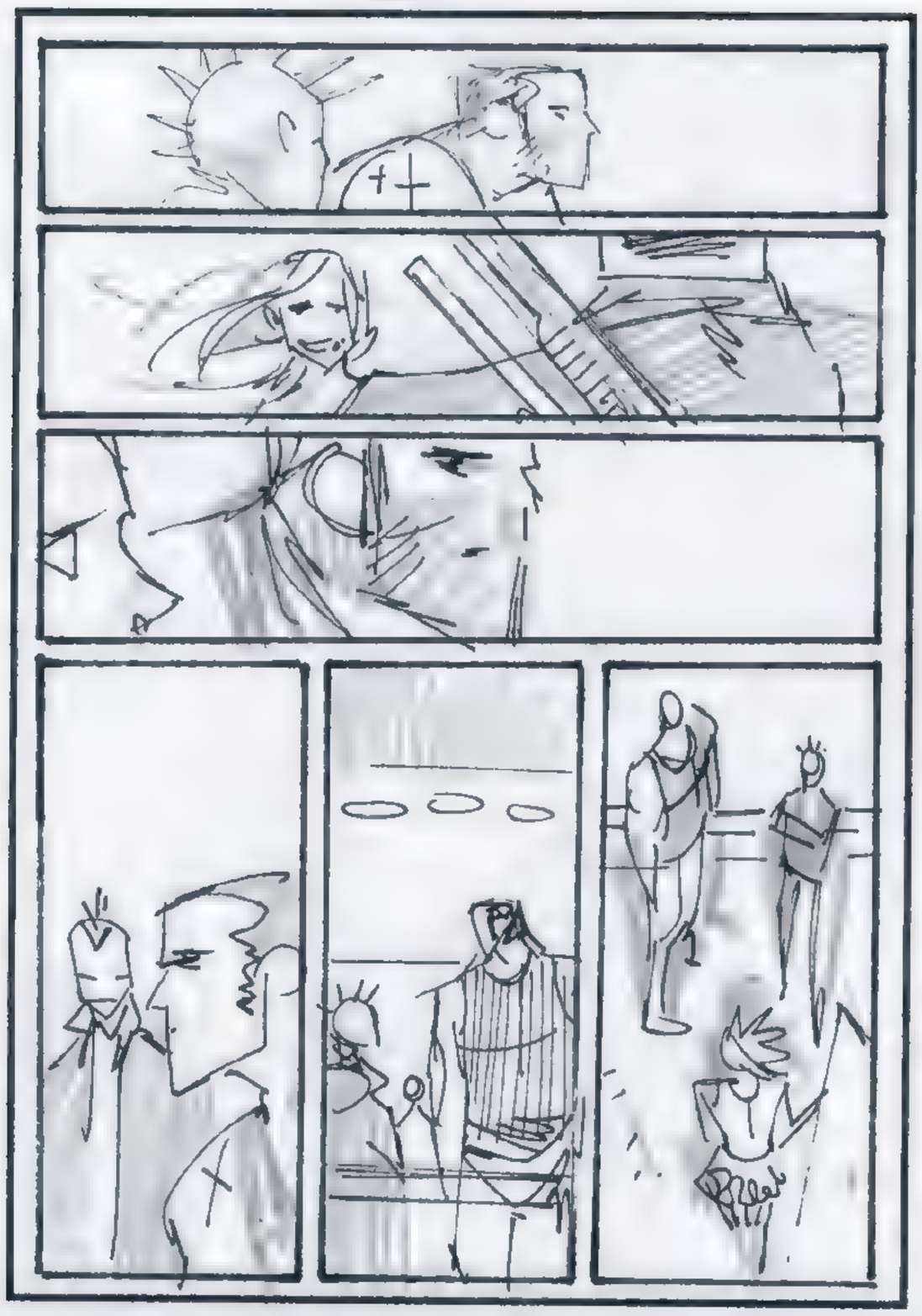

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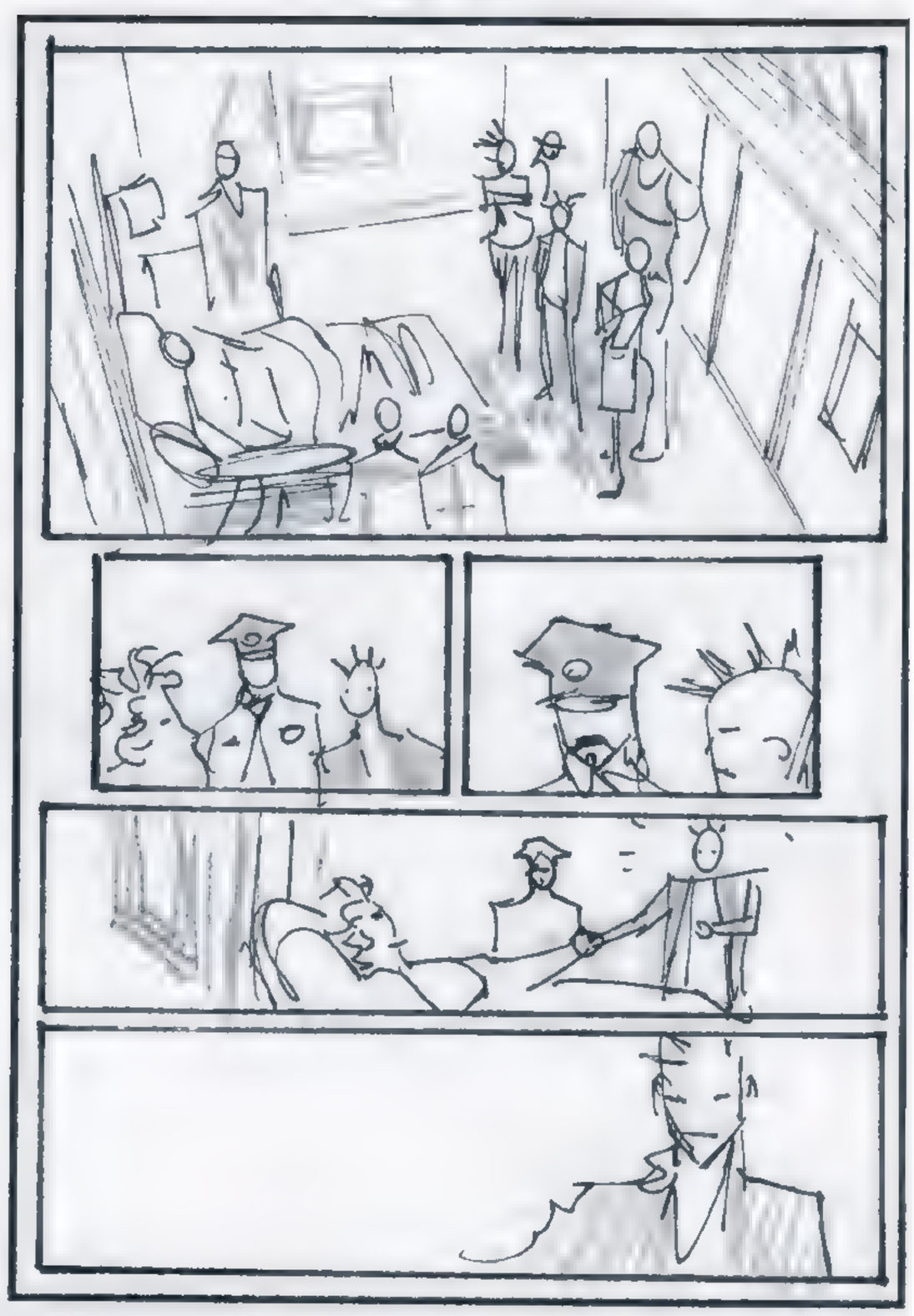

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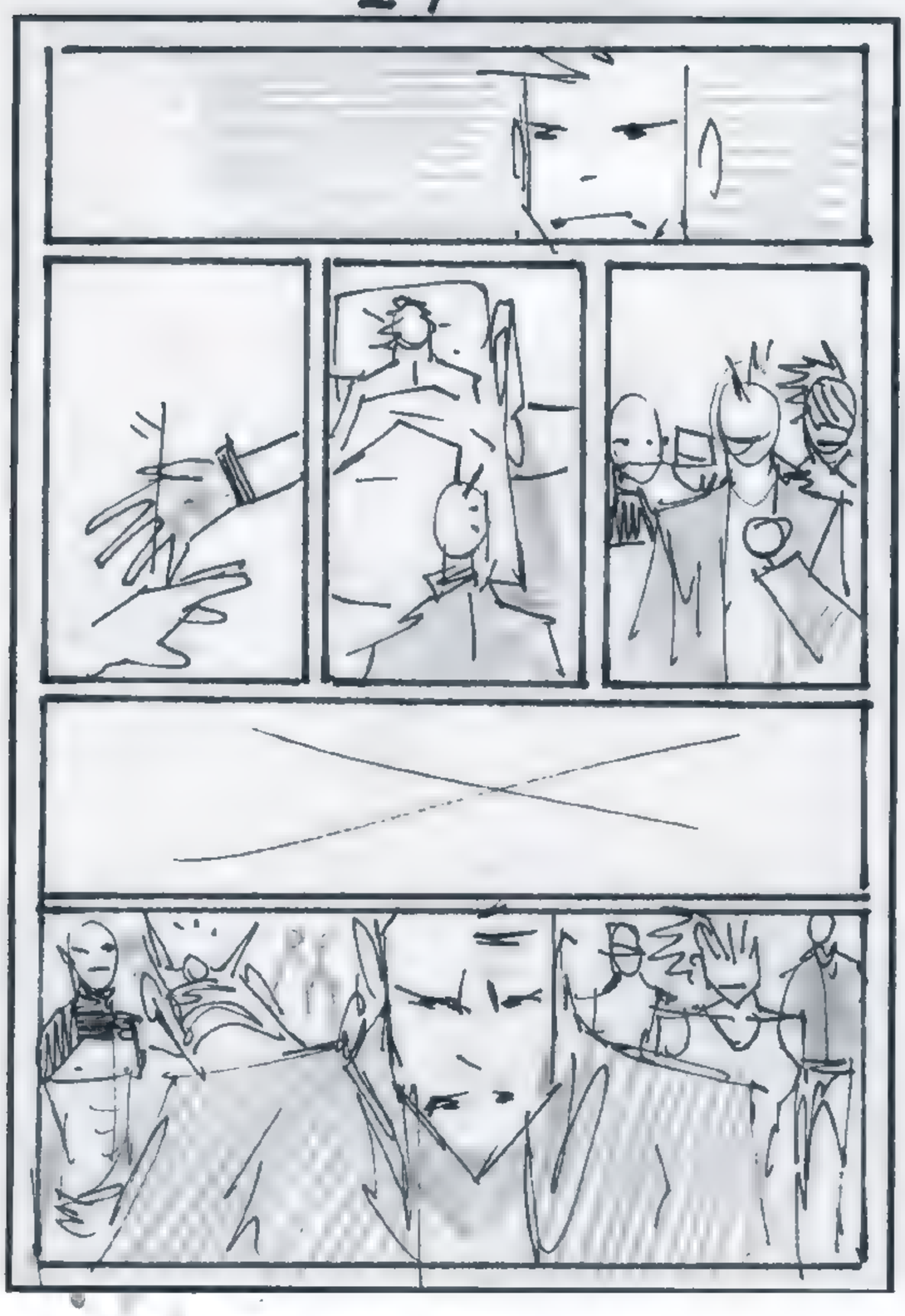

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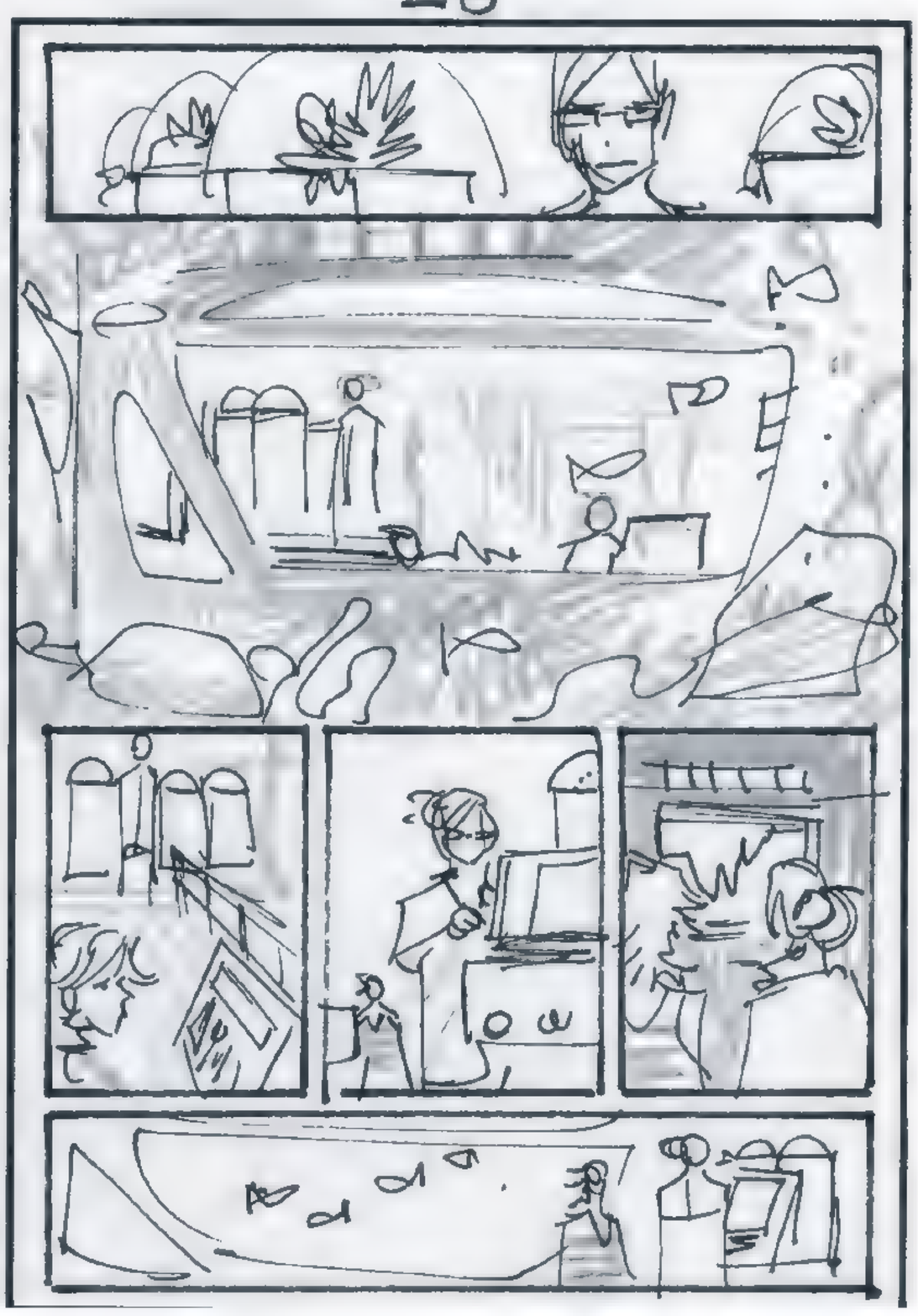

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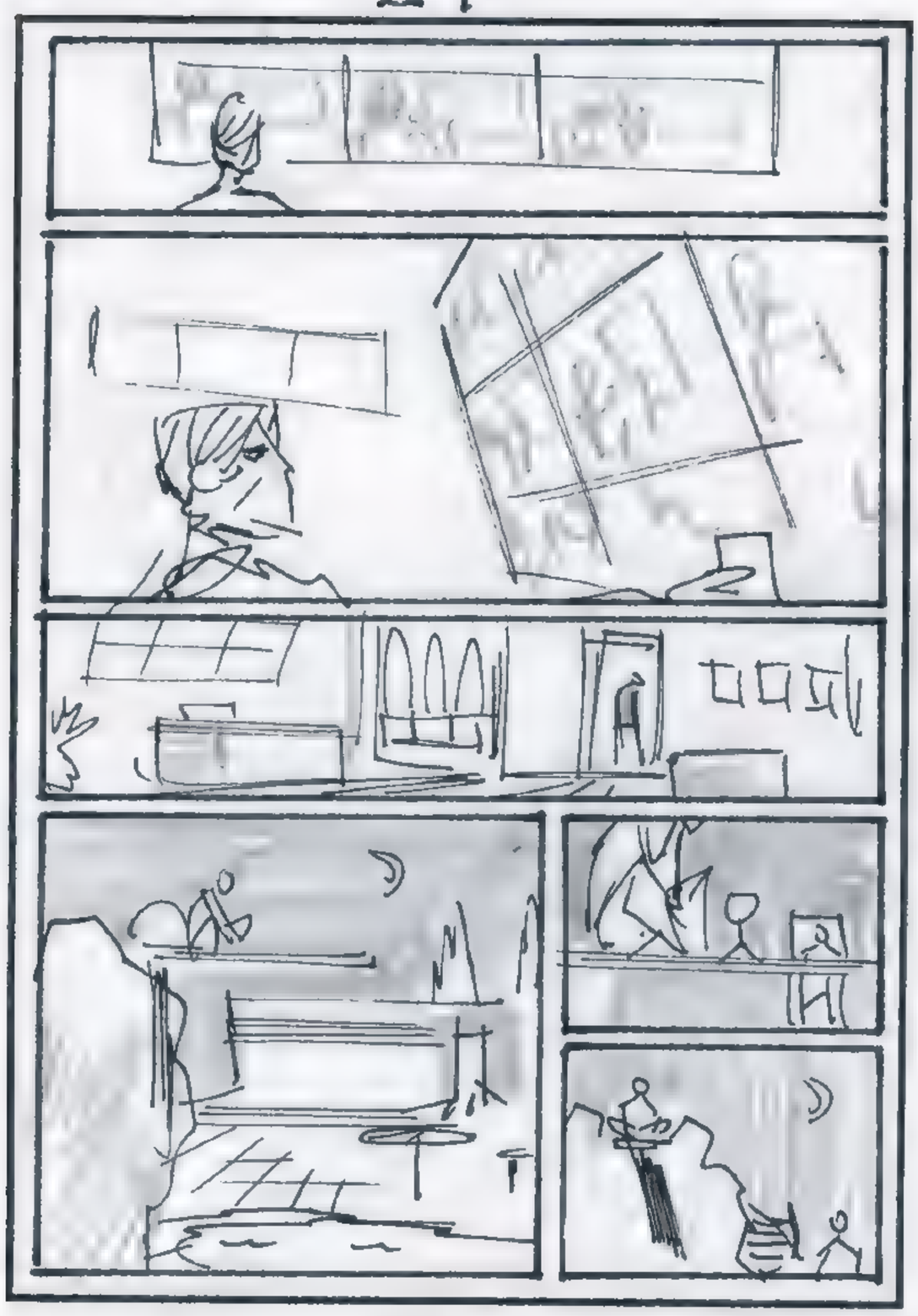

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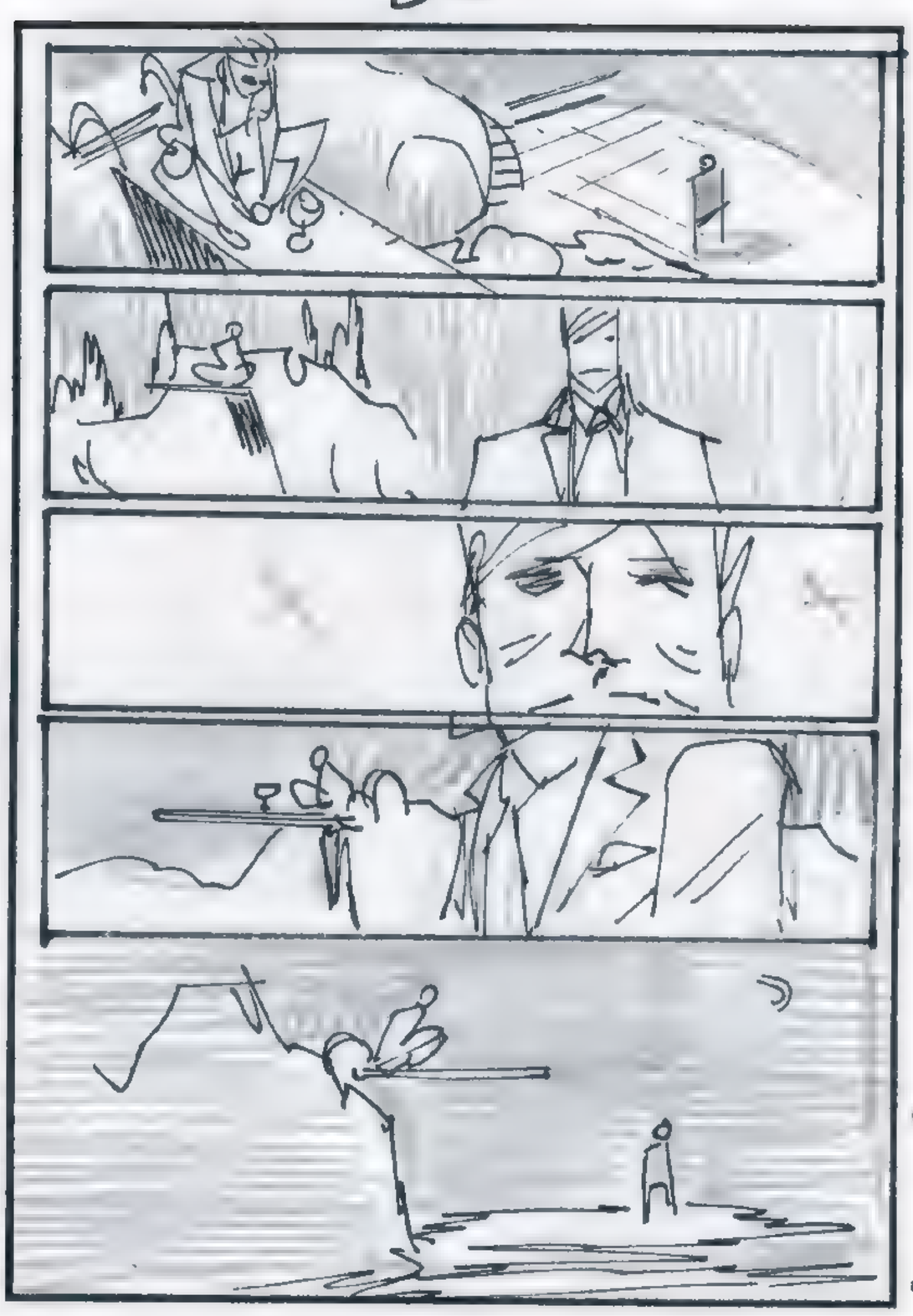

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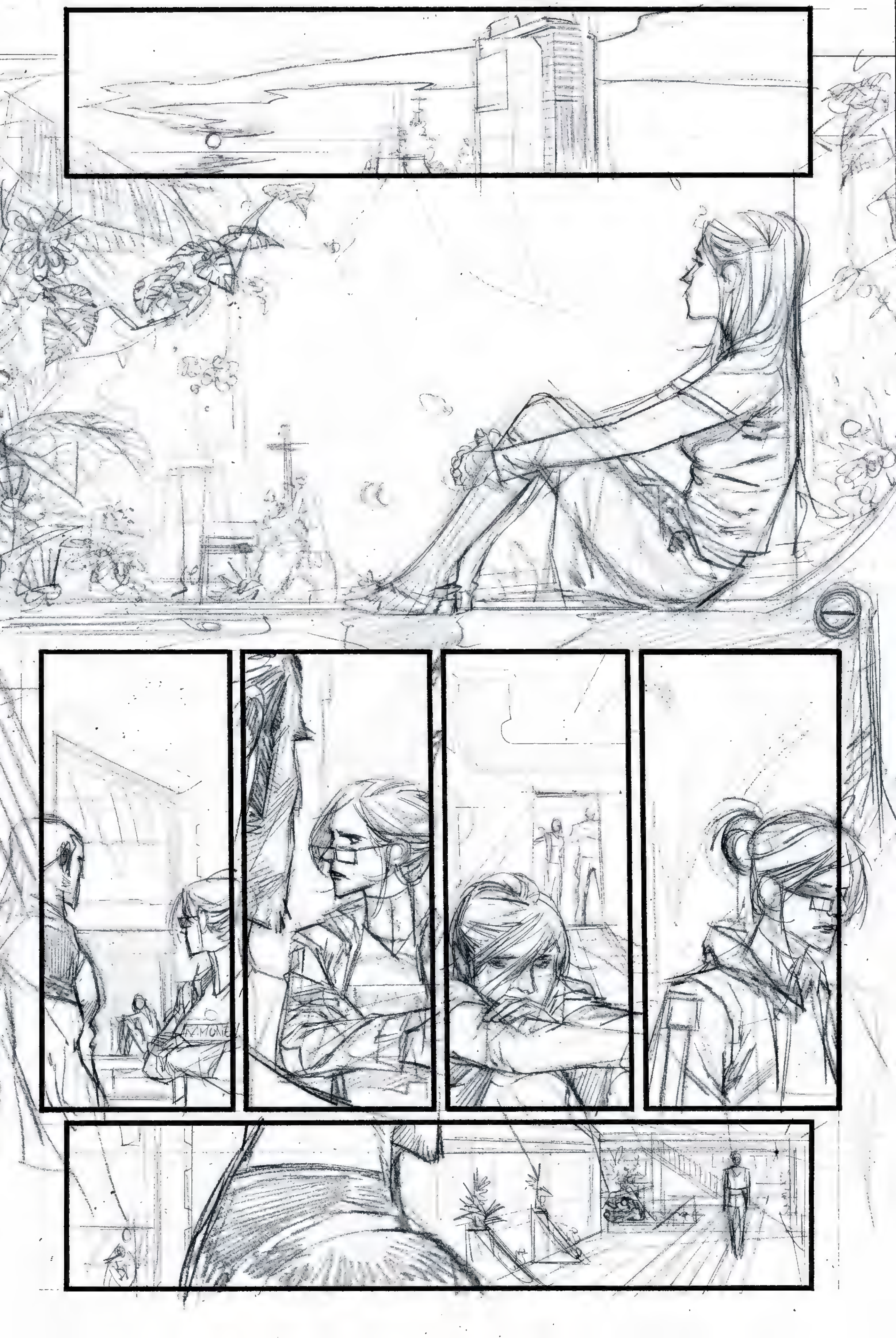
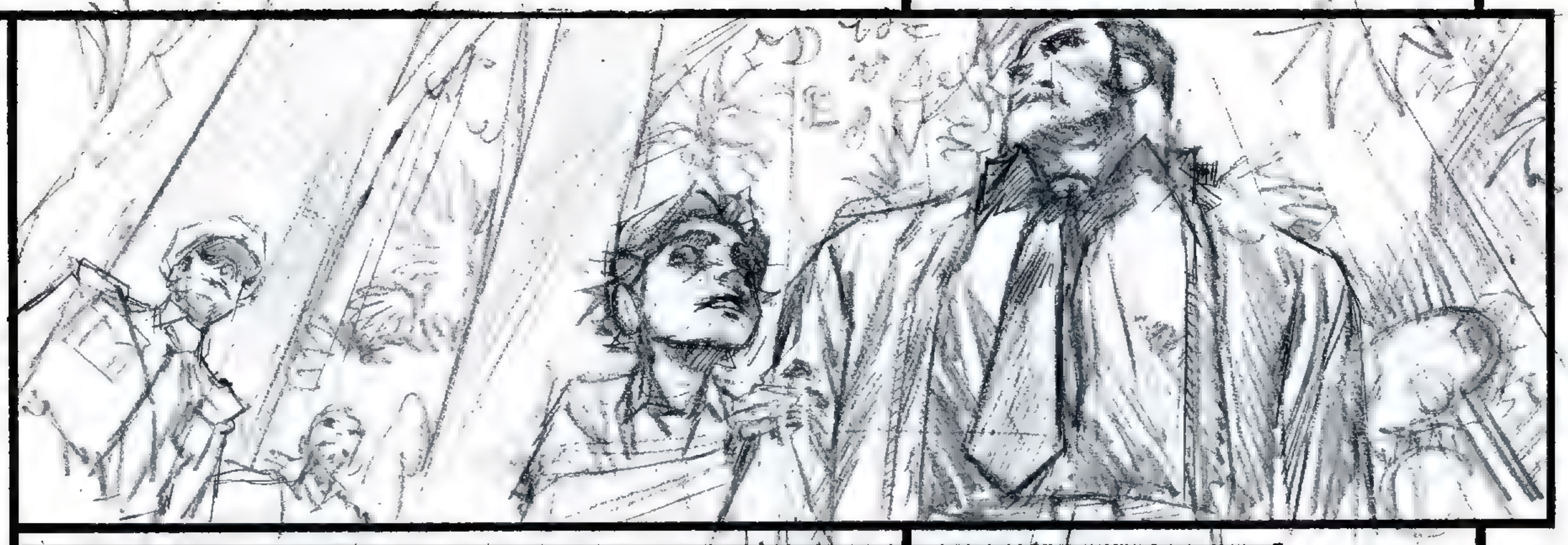
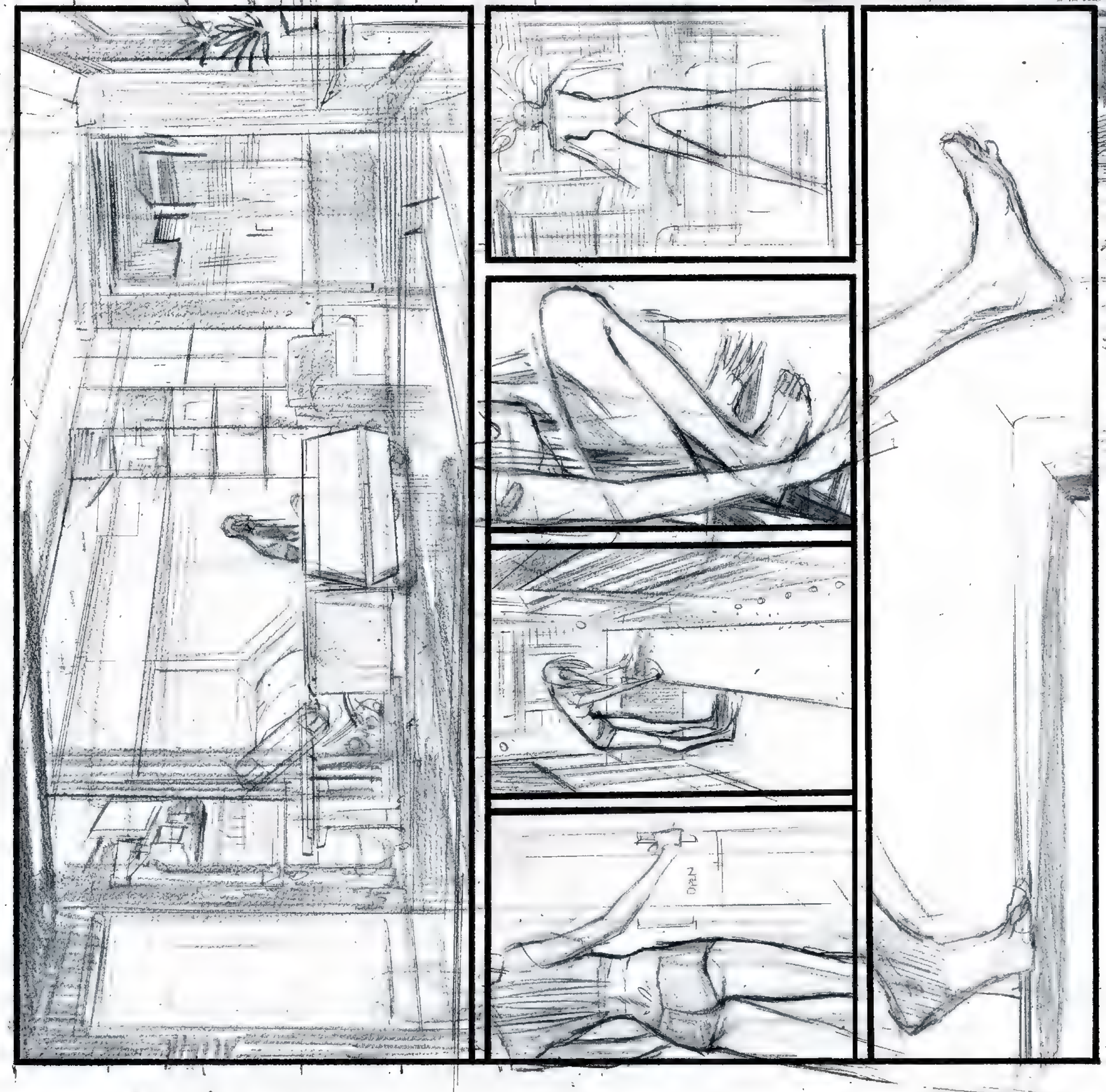
PENCILS



Order
HERE



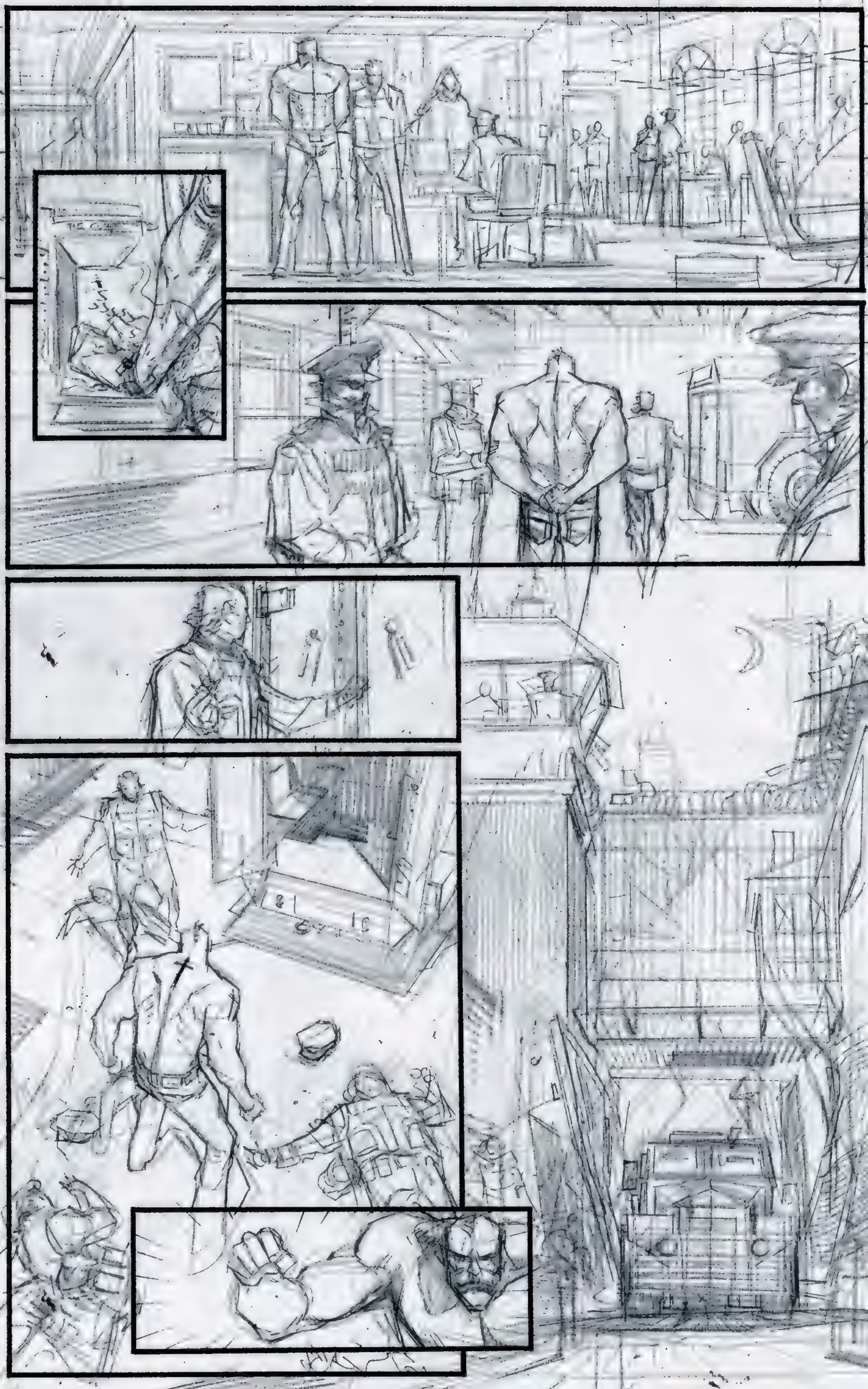


PADALECKI
VLADA HOLOVITZ

- VLADIMIR HORWITZ
- PADALECKI

SEA LAB - AWESOME

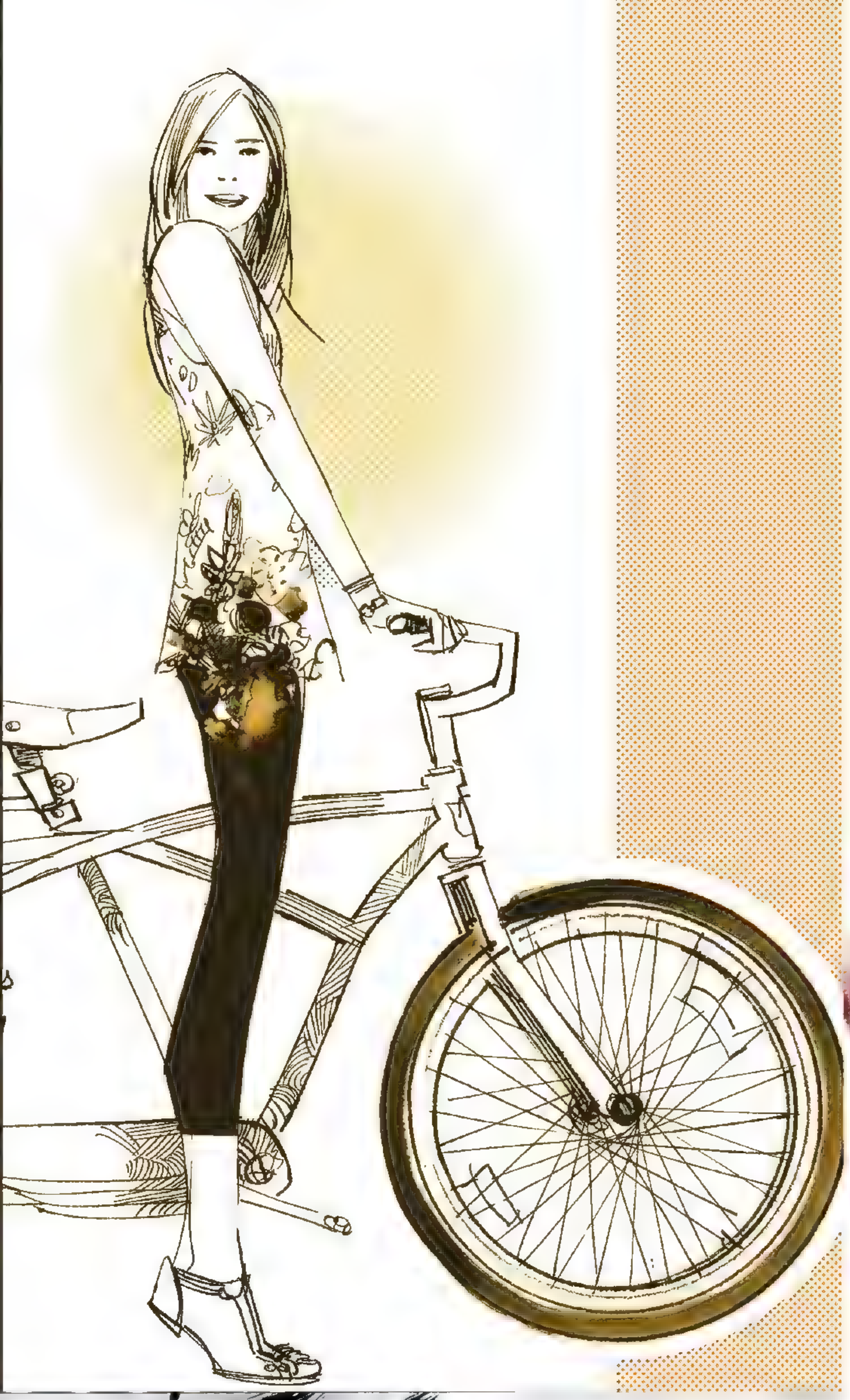
SCIENCE STUFF



SKETCHES

Before I started working each day, I'd try to force myself to warm up by sketching out of model magazines. I'm not usually comfortable drawing women, and by forcing myself to draw them first thing, I found that it was easier for me to draw curves throughout the day.

This was my first ever drawing of Thomas in 2004. As bad as it looks to me now, this was the drawing that inspired me to pick up the brush. I have no idea who the character with the curly hair is.



This was the original page 8 for the first issue of PRJ. Not only was I not happy with the drawing of the motorcycle, I didn't like how bright it was (although I planned on the colorists making it into a nighttime scene). I'm so glad I redid it. As the first intro to the adult Thomas, I needed to be right.

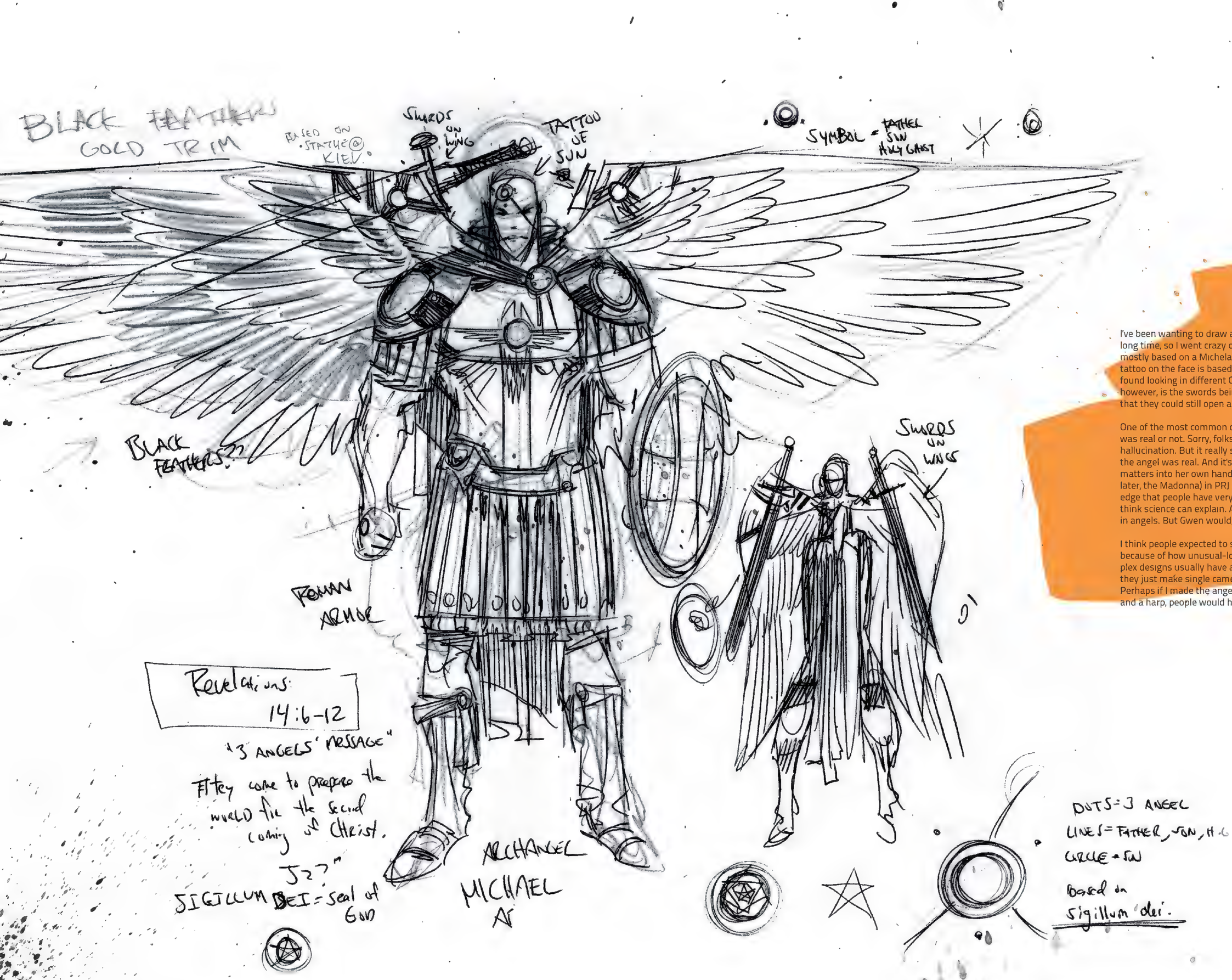
ROB'S DINER

SOON

GET READY FOR THE
SECOND COMING
CHRISTMAS 2019

HOLLYWOOD

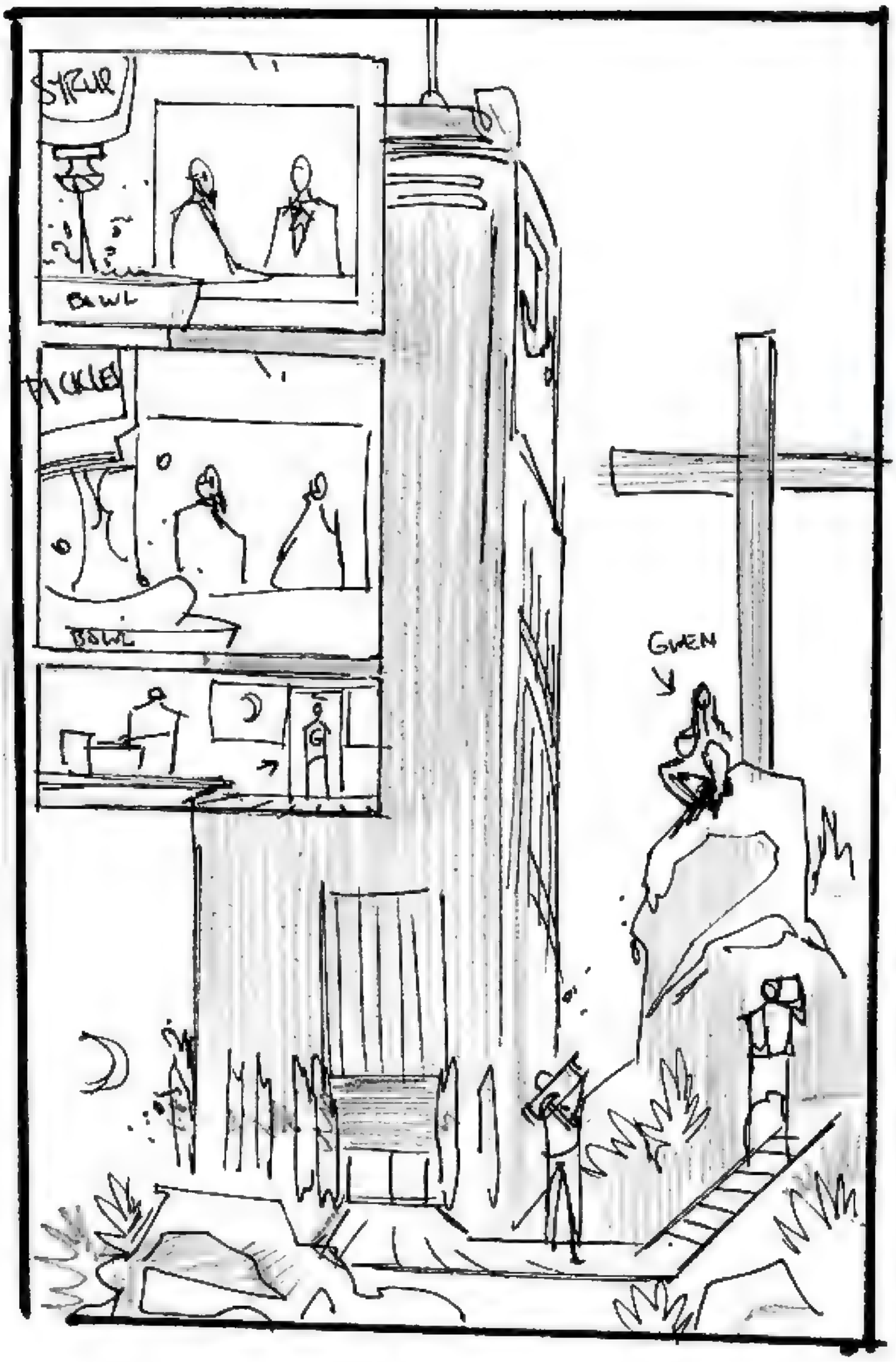
MAIN ST



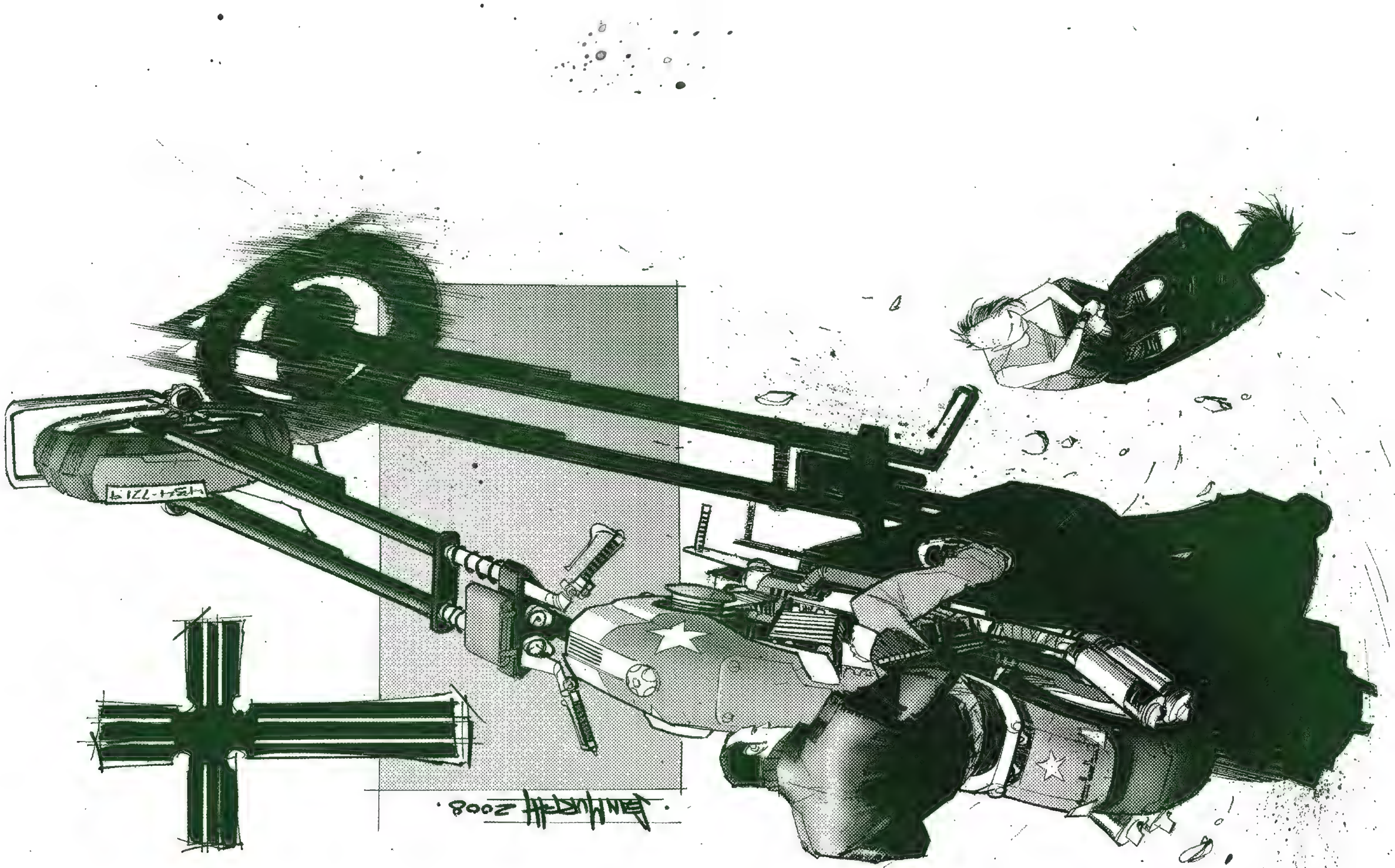
I've been wanting to draw a cool-looking angel character for a long time, so I went crazy on this concept design. The clothing is mostly based on a Michelangelo statue I found, and the symbol/tattoo on the face is based on the "seal of God" description I found looking in different Christian books. The icing on the cake, however, is the swords being strapped to the wings in a way that they could still open and fly.

One of the most common questions I get is whether the angel was real or not. Sorry, folks, the angel isn't real: it was only an hallucination. But it really shouldn't matter because, to Gwen, the angel was real. And it's "calling" finally motivated her to take matters into her own hands. I wanted to have an angel (and later, the Madonna) in PRJ because I wanted to book to acknowledge that people have very powerful experiences that they don't think science can explain. As an atheist, I obviously don't believe in angels. But Gwen would, and perhaps she'd even see one.

I think people expected to see the angel come back later on because of how unusual-looking it was. Things that have complex designs usually have a larger role within a story—rarely do they just make single cameos before disappearing completely. Perhaps if I made the angel the type adorned with white robes and a harp, people would have dismissed it more easily.



When I started the flashback scenes, I planned on using an ink wash. But this single page took too long, so I decided to redo it and get rid of the wash idea completely.



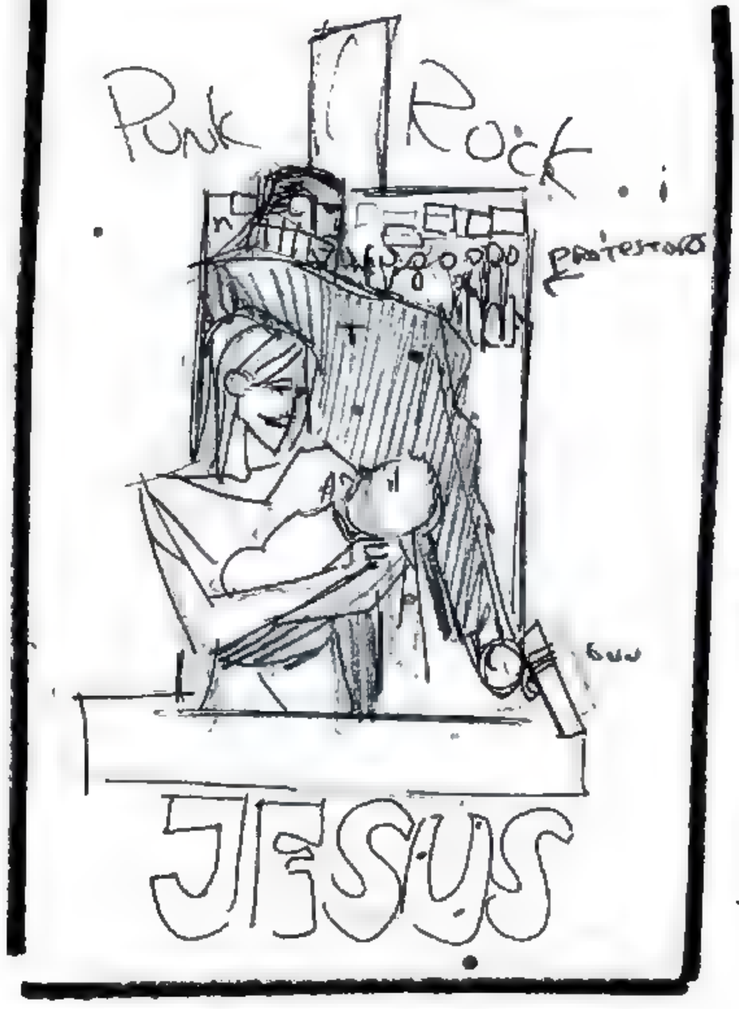
KAEL

the next book
by Sean Murphy

For some stupid reason, I drew and posted this promotional cover for my IRA story before I'd even written it.

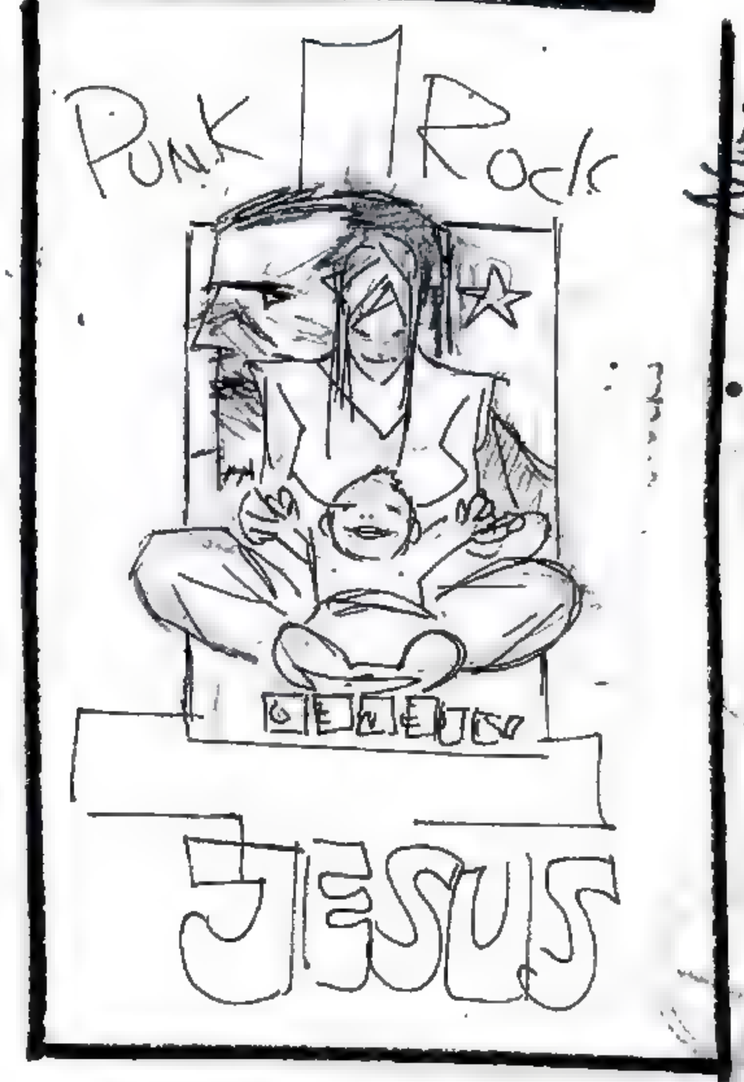
ANOTHER NEW ONE FLAG? NO

KAREN PUSHED T+G RELATIONSHIP



THOMAS B GWEN COVER

PROTECTOR



ILLUSTRATE THERE CLOSENESS

T HAS TO HAVE A SUBTLE LOOK ON HIS FACE!!

* GENERIC BLOCKS - WILL THEY GIVE AWAY INTERIOR?

COVER 2 SKETCHES

THIS COVER SHOWS THAT

1

Mike in the foreground. Jesus with spray paint in the BG.

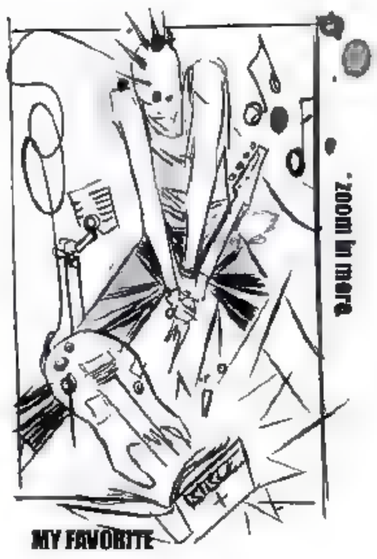
2

Gwen bleeding from the letter opener. Jesus, J2 in BG.

3

Jesus with a broken guitar. Johnny Cash style.

4



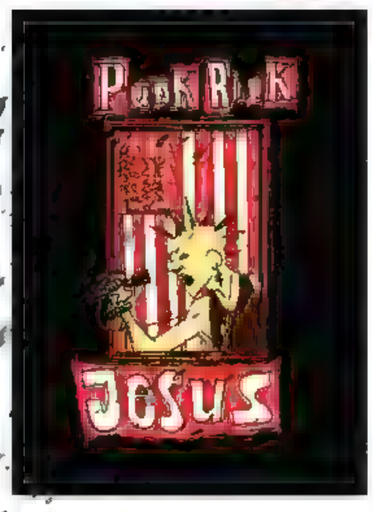
MY FAVORITE

5

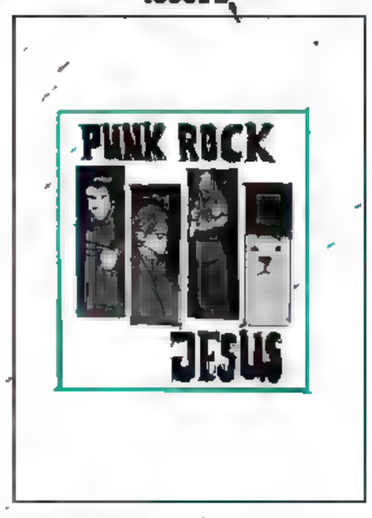
Jesus about to smash guitar.

One idea I had for the series was to do homages to famous punk records. I thought it was a clever idea, and my friend Dave Johnson agreed, but he urged me to try again. Homages are fine once in a while, but they can be kitschy. PRJ, he told me, was a clever enough story that I didn't need to rely on homages to justify it. He was right. I'm not a fan of PRJ covers 3 and 4, but overall I'm happy I took that direction.

ISSUE 1



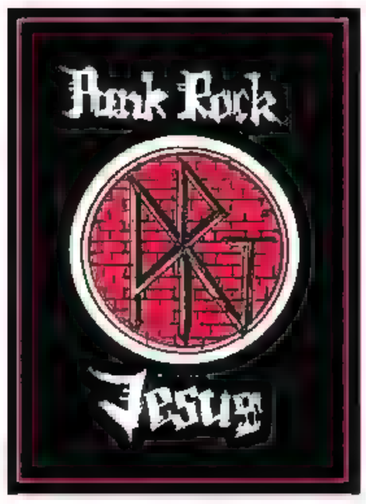
ISSUE 2



ISSUE 3

ISSUE 4

ISSUE 5



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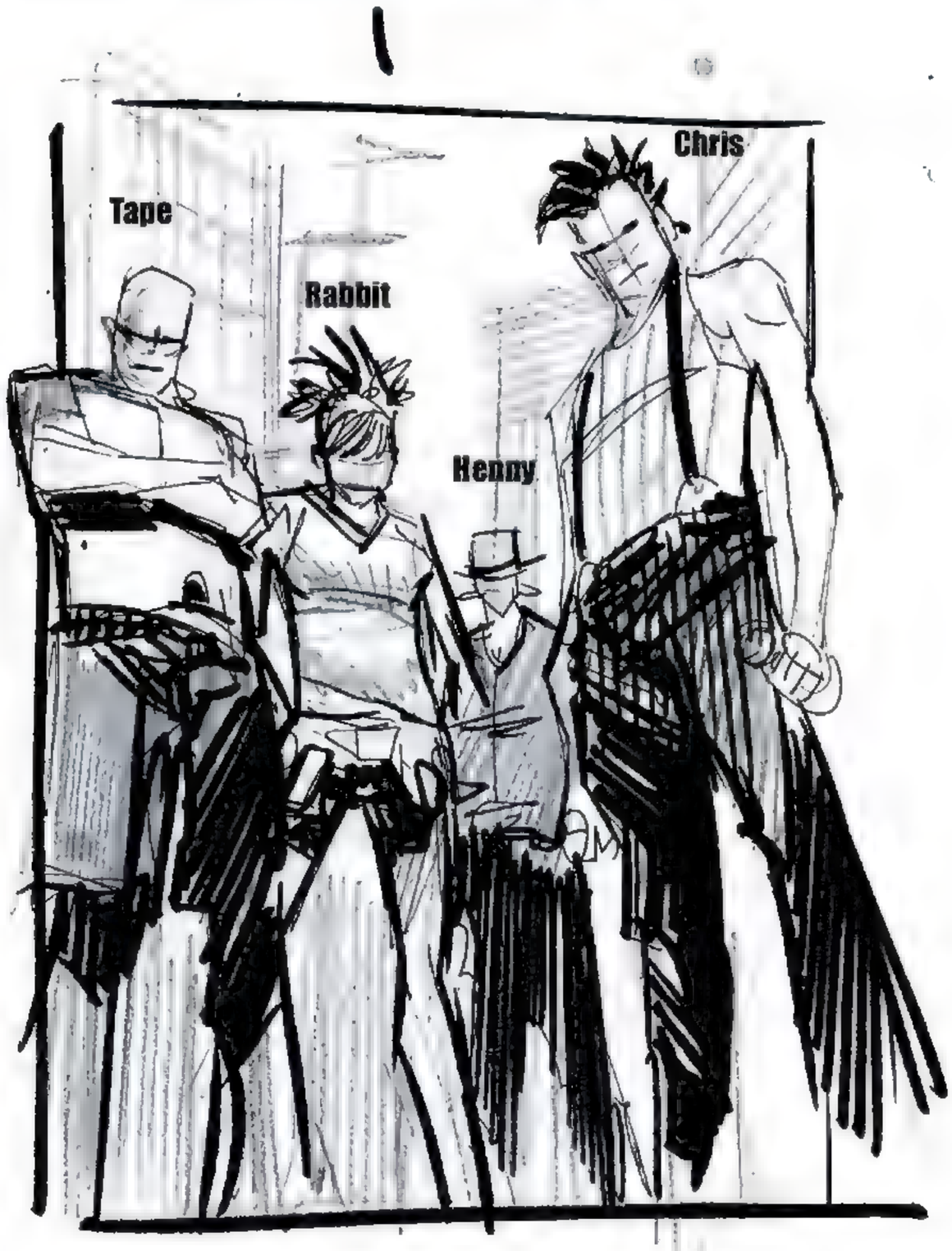
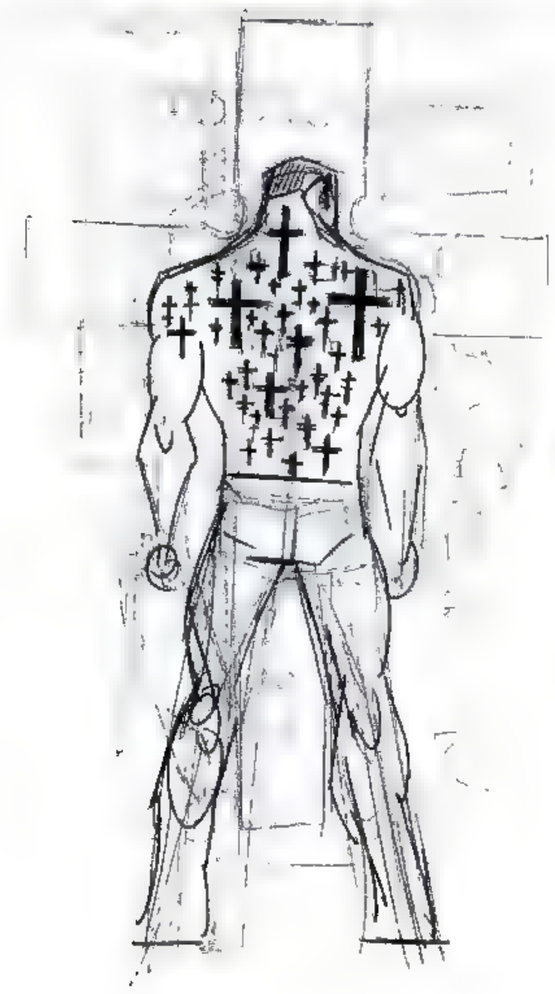


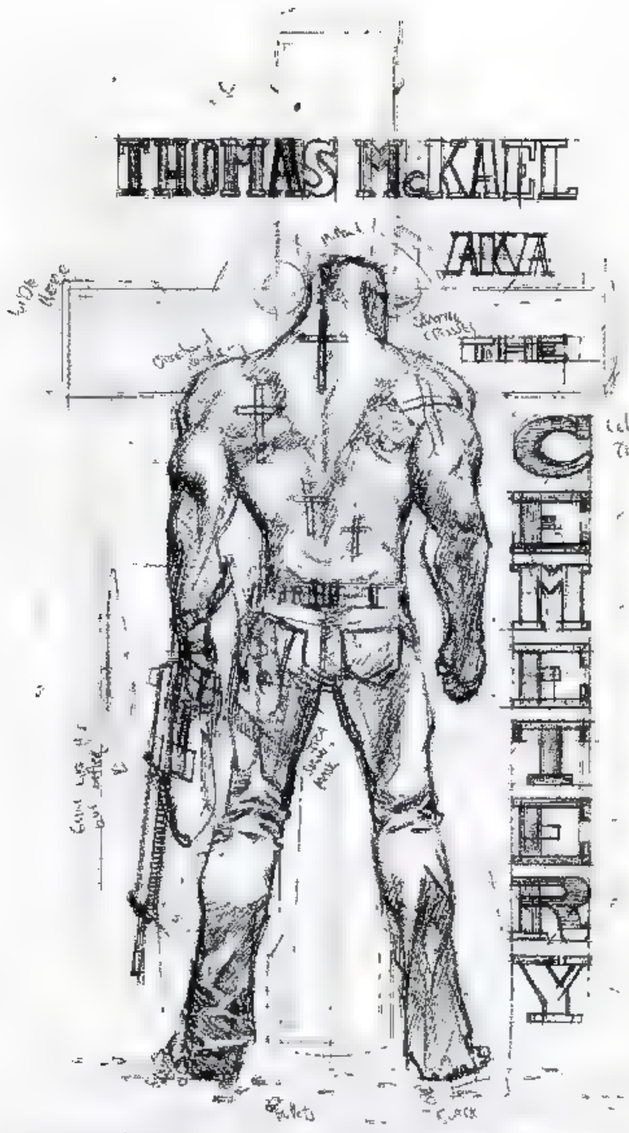
Ramones types pose. Flooded NYC in the background.

2

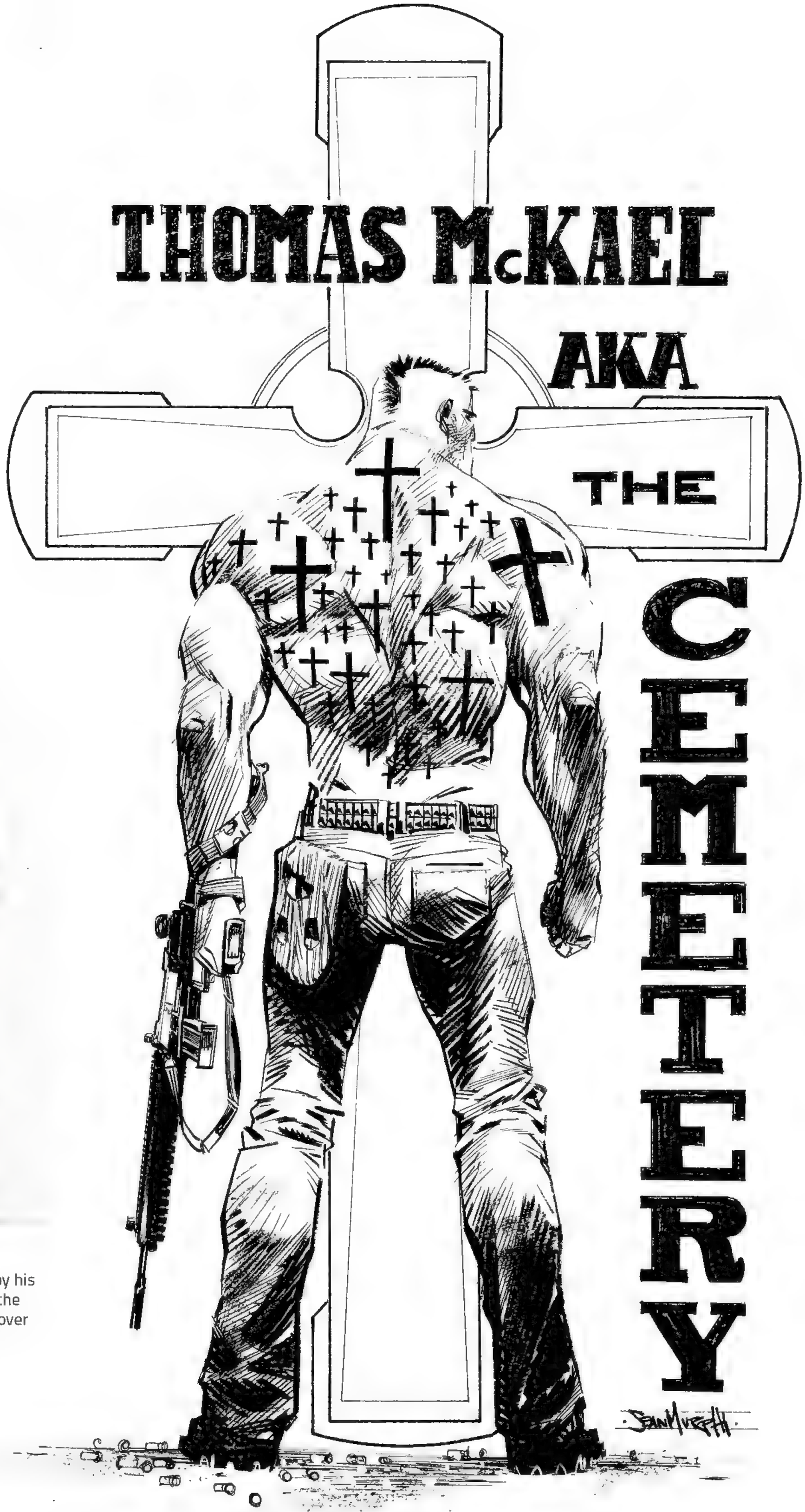
More relaxed pose. Girl in the front. Chris in the back with the mohawk. Move him closer?

While I really like the design for cover five, I wish my editor had let me go with the other option.
But she felt that Chris was too major a character not to include in the cover.





I love the visual of Thomas being "branded" by his guilt with dozens of tattoos. I came up with the nickname "Cemetery" as I was drawing the cover to issue two, and later added it to the script.

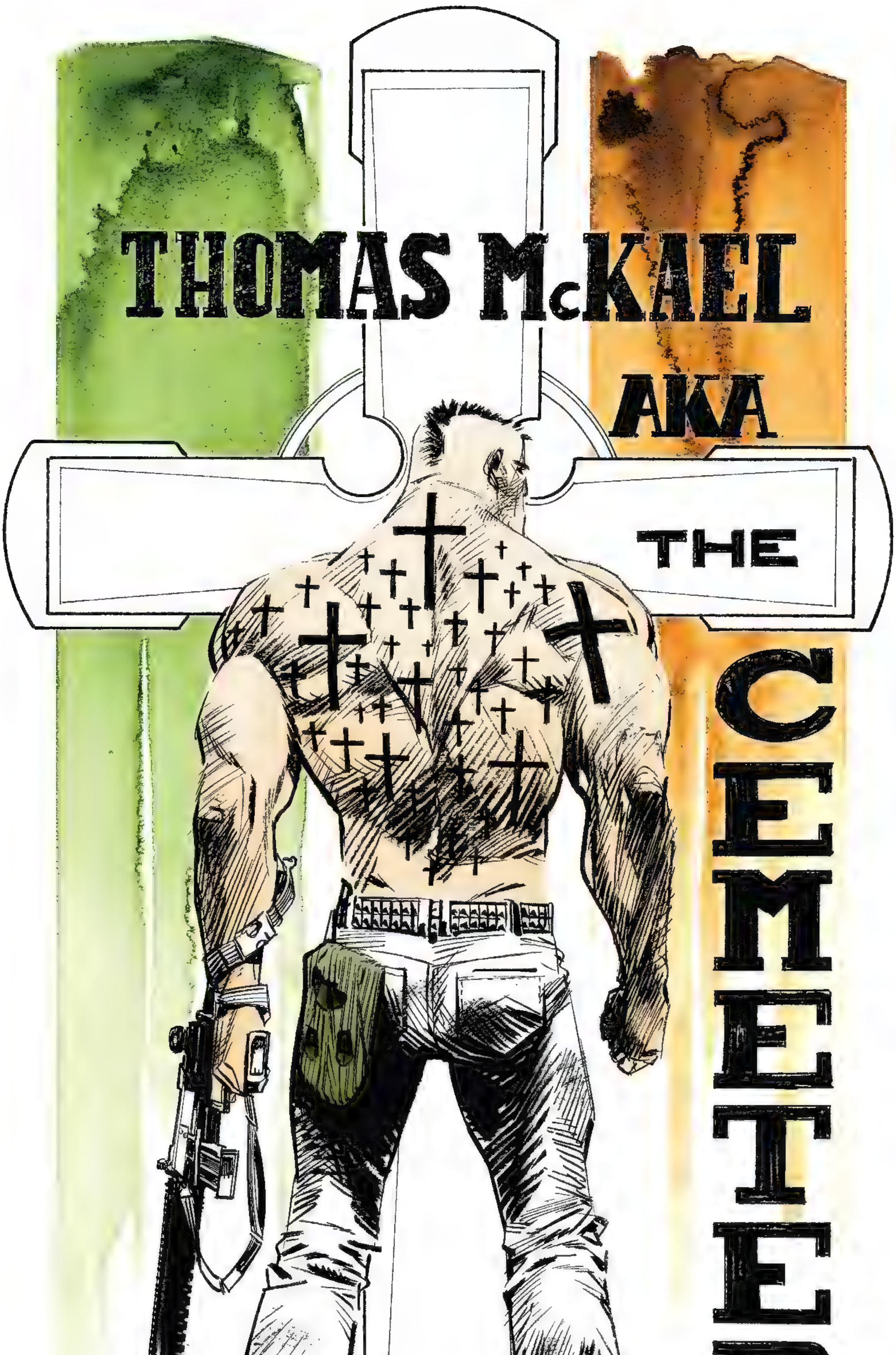


THOMAS McKAEL

AKA

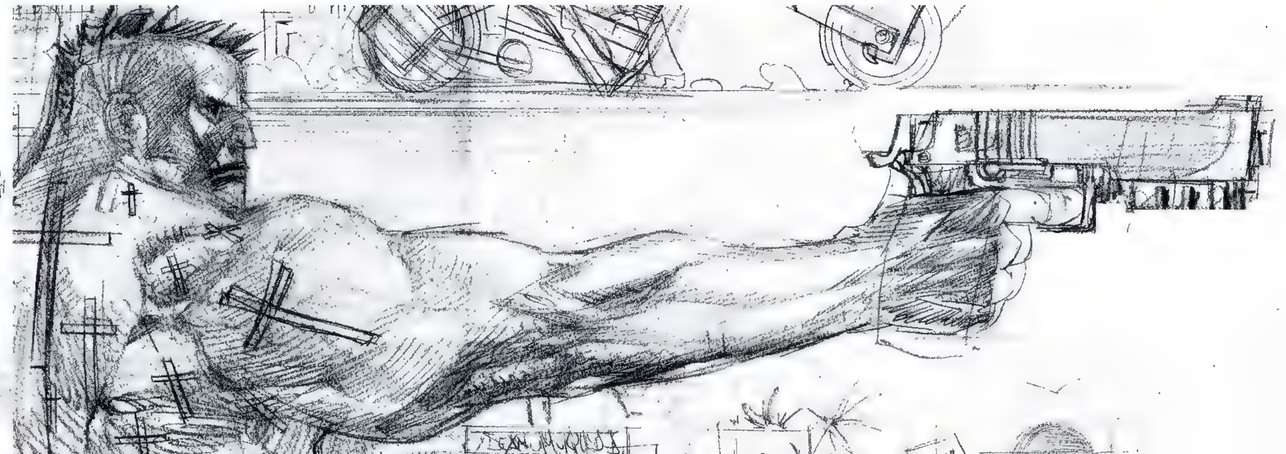
THE

CEMETERY



Sean Murphy's

Punk Rock Jesus



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Jesus

by

Sean Murphy

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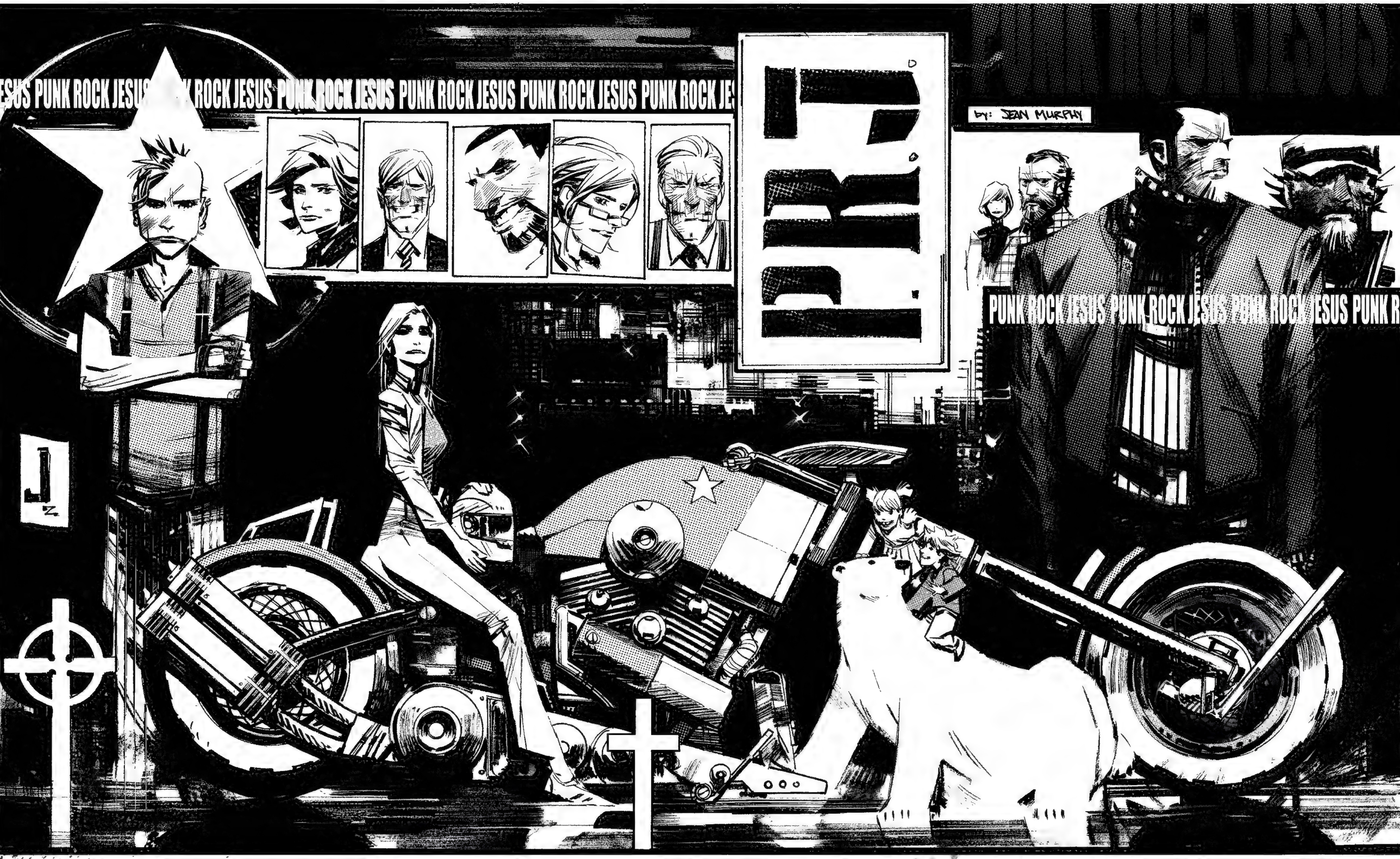
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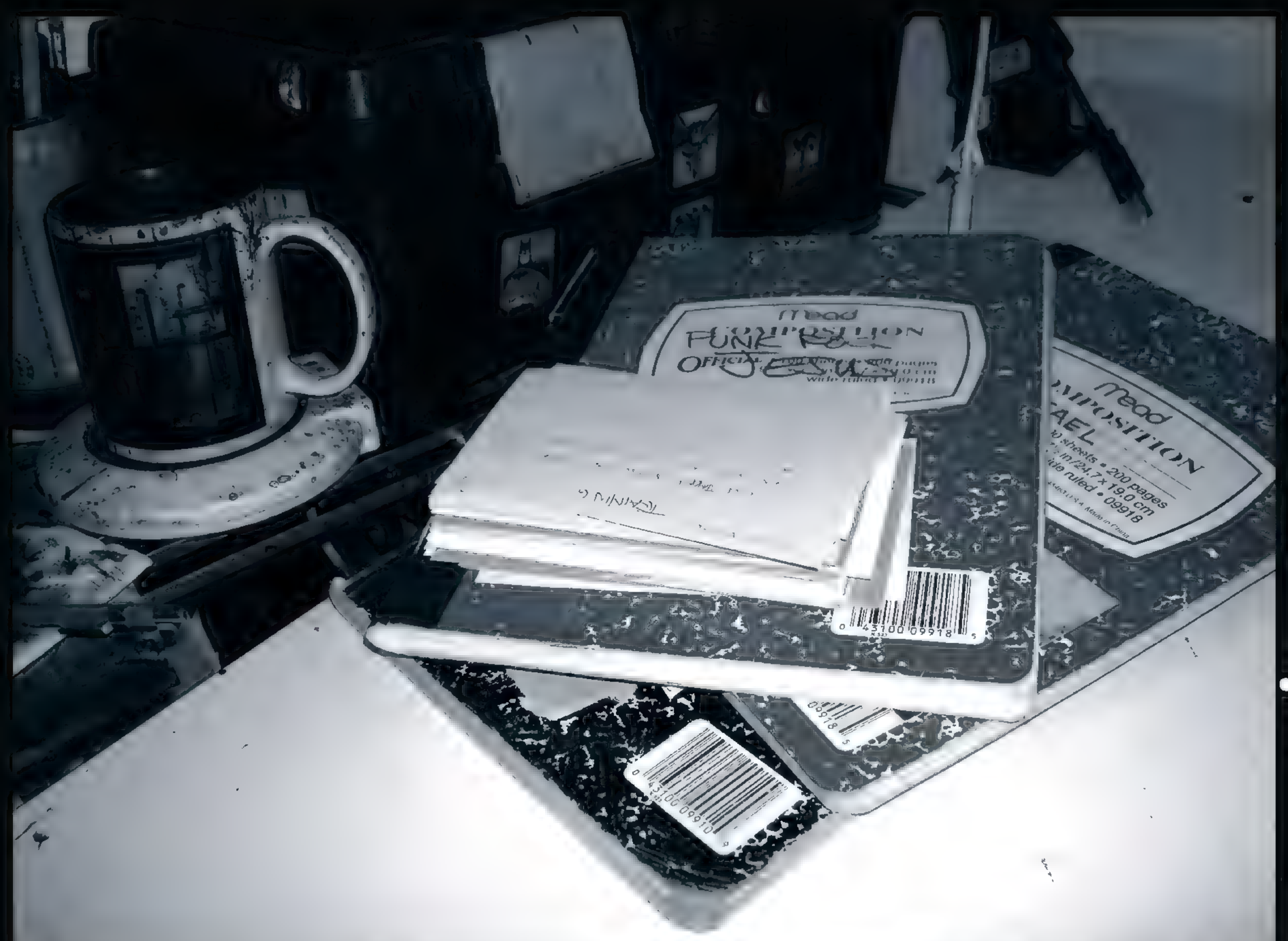
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SNIPER

After breaking into the industry at a young age, Sean Murphy made a name for himself in the world of indie comics before joining up with DC. In his tenure, he has worked on such titles as BATMAN/SCARECROW: YEAR ONE, TEEN TITANS, HELLBLAZER, JOE THE BARBARIAN and the miniseries AMERICAN VAMPIRE: SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST. Sean also wrote and illustrated the original graphic novel as well as his popular miniseries PUNK ROCK JESUS. Most recently, he has been working as the artist on the critically acclaimed Vertigo miniseries THE WAKE, with Scott Snyder.

PUNK ROCK JESUS PUNK ROCK JESUS PUNK ROCK JESUS PUNK ROCK JESUS PUN

"*Punk Rock Jesus* is amazing. The series has been incredible right from the beginning and it ends in a spectacular fashion. It's brilliant and heartbreaking, epic and emotional.... This is a book that makes you think." —*IGN*

"Sean's work is flawless..... *Punk Rock Jesus* is the best kind of sci-fi—a meditation on liberty for the cyber-age." —*Pop Matters*

"Belongs in the same league as *Watchmen*, it's a complete game changer."—*Craveonline*

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—*Publisher's Weekly, Starred Review*

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Written and illustrated by Sean Murphy (AMERICAN VAMPIRE: SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST, JOE THE BARBARIAN, HELLBLAZER) and including over 100 pages of bonus material. PUNK ROCK JESUS DELUXE EDITION is the searingly personal, visually dazzling story of a boy destined to find greatness, three chords at a time.

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